

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Apple's iPod,  
Mac getting  
smaller, cheaper**

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Miami Heat forward Udonis Haslem, left, and Phoenix Suns forward Amar'e Stoudemire

**East-leading  
Heat worn  
down by Suns**

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**Bush stands by  
DOD policy keeping  
women from combat**

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2005

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# More Pacific troops deploy to support war

Servicemembers from Misawa, Yokota head for Southwest Asia

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## Tsunami operation

■ Indonesia  
wants all  
troops out  
by March 31

■ Rules put  
on relief  
workers

Page 4

From left: Maj. Brian Geronime and Capt. Jason Fodor, both C-130 pilots, Staff Sgt. Michael Whipple, a flight engineer, and 1st Lt. Matthew Campbell take off from Phuket, Thailand, after transporting an engineering assessment team on Saturday. The crew is with Yokota Air Base, Japan's 36th Airlift Squadron, which currently is delivering supplies and equipment to areas in Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

VAL GENNIS  
Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force



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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Missing intern:** Gary Condit denied in a sworn deposition that he had a romantic affair with slain intern Chandra Levy, insisting "we were friends," but offering few details of their relationship.

The former California congressman was questioned in September as part of an \$11 million lawsuit he filed in 2002 against Dominick Dunne, a special correspondent to Vanity Fair. Condit claims that Dunne's statements led millions of people to believe Condit was criminally involved in Levy's death.

Details of the deposition were reported Tuesday on NBC's "Today Show."

When asked to describe his relationship with Levy, Condit said, "We were friends."

Levy, a 24-year-old U.S. Bureau of Prisons employee, disappeared in 2001; her remains were discovered in a Washington, D.C., park in May 2002.

**South Carolina train derailment:** The government told railroads on Tuesday they should require their crews to report and document changes to manual switches like the one suspected of causing the derailment of a train carrying chlorine gas.

A Norfolk Southern train slammed into another train parked on a side track in Graniteville, S.C., on Thursday, rupturing a tank and releasing a cloud of gas. The deadliest train wreck involving hazardous material in nearly three decades, it killed nine people, injured 234 others and forced the evacuation of 5,400 local residents.

Though they haven't finished their probe, National Transportation Safety Board investigators are focusing on whether the crew of the parked train failed to flip a switch to keep other trains on the main track hours before the wreck.

**Louisiana serial murders:** Prosecutors have decided against taking twice-convicted killer Derrick Todd Lee to trial for the murder of a Lafayette woman, Trineisha Dene Colomb, 23.

Authorities say DNA evidence links Lee to the serial killings of Colomb and six other women from 1998 to 2003. In October, a jury in Baton Rouge convicted Lee of first-degree murder in the slaying of Charlotte Murray Pace and ordered the death penalty. He earlier was convicted of second-degree murder for the slaying of Gerilyn DeSoto in West Baton Rouge Parish and



**Fired Georgia law enforcers:** Clayton County, Ga., Sheriff Victor Hill — whose firing of 27 of his 345 employees, most of them deputies and officers, on his first day in office was overturned by a judge — agreed Tuesday to reinstate their pay and benefits. But he insisted they would not necessarily get their jobs back. Hill defended his actions as legal, but refused to say exactly why the employees were fired. The firings angered members of the department and raised suspicions that they were racially motivated. Hill is black. The fired employees include four of the highest-ranking officers, all of them white.

was sentenced to life in prison.

## War on terrorism

**Australian terror suspect's release:** The opposition Labor Party asked the government on Wednesday to explain if the release of an Australian terror suspect held for three years at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was linked to his claims he was tortured while under U.S. supervision in Egypt.

The suspect, who the United States believes had foreknowledge of the Sept. 11 al-Qaida attacks, won't be allowed to leave Australia after being repatriated.

The government announced Tuesday that Sydney resident Mamdouh Habib, who was born in Egypt, will be released without charge from Guantanamo Bay.

Last week, one of Habib's court affidavits was made public in which he said that after he was arrested in Pakistan he was transferred to Egypt, where he was tortured with beatings and electric shocks and was nearly drowned.

## World

**Afghan drug-smuggler amnesty:** President Hamid Karzai said an amnesty for former drug smugglers was "not a bad idea" if it could help eliminate Afghani-

stan's booming narcotics industry, but he suggested Wednesday it was far from becoming government policy.

Under pressure from the United States and Europe, Karzai has called for a "holy war" against Afghanistan's drug business, the world's largest, and made it a priority for the five-year term he won in landmark September elections.

Afghan poppy cultivation jumped an estimated two-thirds last year and supplied 87 percent of the world's opium, the raw material for most of the heroin sold to young addicts in areas such as Western Europe and Russia.

**Pakistan assassination suspect:** An air force staffer who allegedly played a key role in a plot to assassinate Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has escaped from jail and efforts are under way to arrest him, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Mushtaq Ahmed, a low-ranking Pakistani air force staff member, was captured months after al-Qaida-linked Islamic militants tried to blow up Musharraf's motorcade on Dec. 14, 2003, in Rawalpindi, a city near the capital, Islamabad.

On Wednesday, air force spokesman Air Commodore Sarfaraz Ahmad said the jailbreak occurred last month, but declined to give further details about it.

Stories and photos from wire reports



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# Misawa, Yokota troops deploy

## Dozens of soldiers to support anti-terror operations in Southwest Asia

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — About 280 troops from Misawa and Yokota air bases left Wednesday for various locations in Southwest Asia to support operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in the global war on terrorism, Yokota officials said.

A plane carrying almost 130 airmen from Misawa stopped at Yokota, where the base leadership joined family, friends and co-workers in saying farewell to the 150 deploying servicemembers from the 374th Airlift Wing.

It's part of a scheduled rotation within the Air Force's Aerospace Expeditionary Force cycle. Wednesday's dispatch represented roughly half of Yokota's 300-troop commitment in AEF 3 and 4 — which is being carried out in waves this month. Forty personnel took off Jan. 3 for the Central Command's area of responsibility.

"They're heading to locations surrounding and in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Lt. Adam Warren Comer, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman. "This is the largest group we have going out there."

Personnel from several squadrons and agencies were among those leaving Wednesday, including from civil engineering, communications, mission support, wing staff, medical, logistics readiness, maintenance, aircraft maintenance, operational support, air postal, comptroller, weather, security forces, contracting and services units.

The Air Force's deployment schedule ranges from three months to four months.

"I'm proud of all the airmen at Yokota who sacrifice so much to make the world a better place," said Col. Doug Kreulen, the 374th Airlift Wing commander, at Wednesday's send-off. "We're proud that they're representing all



WARREN COMER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**First Lt. Adam Comer of the 374th Contracting Squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan, holds his daughter, Emily, while his wife, Missa, looks on. Comer is deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. About 190 airmen, 150 of whom left Wednesday, from the 374th Airlift Wing have deployed in support of the global war on terrorism this month.**

of us here at Yokota, but anxious for their quick return to their families and friends."

Before departing, the Yokota contingent had a lengthy wait in Building 400, which sits next to the base's flightline. For some, the waiting merely heightened emotions.

Alishea Royse, with daughters Arzy, 8, and Madalyn, 7, sitting nearby, fought tears throughout the day as her husband, Senior Airman Rob Royse of the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron, prepared to get on the plane. He's making his third career deployment, but this is his first to Iraq.

"It's going to be harder for her," he said. "She's been through this

before, but it's the first time I'll be in any kind of danger. Normally, we're back in the States and they'll go home. This'll be the first time away from all our family."

"Being away from them is going to be pretty rough, but I guess it's for the best. It's part of the job."

Senior Airman Patrick Sullivan of the 374th Maintenance Squadron was gearing up for his first deployment of any kind.

"I'm kinda nervous, leaving these two," he said, pointing to wife Cassandra and their 6-month-old daughter, Senora. "The toughest part is leaving them behind."

Cassandra Sullivan, also a senior airman with the 374th Maintenance

Squadron, said being active-duty herself makes the separation a little easier.

"He can talk to me in technical terms and I know what he's saying," she added. "But it's going to be hard mostly because [Senora] is so young and I'll be raising her by myself. She won't remember much. She'll kinda sense that he's gone but then he'll come back and everything will be OK."

Master Sgt. Jo Bradshaw and Airman 1st Class Jennifer Cain, both supply personnel with the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, were making their first trips downrange as well. Both single, they went through Wednesday's send-off without any family members.

"It's easier that way," Bradshaw said. "If I had kids and a husband here, it would probably be much harder."

"It's my first deployment actually, but they said I'll be easier than the unit's last one. We're going to a little safer area. But the [Iraqi] election is coming up, so I don't really know what to expect."

Added Cain, "We're going to be more challenging. The election is coming up, so we'll be busier. I think I'll get more nervous the closer we get to loading the plane. Right now, I'm OK."

Staff Sgt. Laurie Villacorta of the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron hugged husband Max inside Building 400's hangar as she prepared for a final goodbye.

"Usually I get to go to, or we get sent at the same time," said Max Villacorta, a technical sergeant with the logistics readiness squadron. "We're in the same AEF bucket. I just wasn't picked this time."

Laurie Villacorta said this marks the couple's third time apart because of deployments. "It'll be tough but it gets easier with each one," she said. "It's still hard, but I guess you could say we've developed our coping skills a little better."

E-mail Vince Little at: [little@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:little@stripes.osd.mil)

# 35th Fighter Wing deploys 100 airmen

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Dozens of airmen from the 35th Fighter Wing are on their way to Southwest Asia to support the global war on terrorism.

The supply, civil engineering and fuels troops are deploying as part of a scheduled Air Force Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation cycle. The current round represents

AEF 3 and 4.

About 50 airmen left Wednesday on a DC-10 airliner from Misawa, said base spokesman 1st Lt. James Lage, noting they were the last of the AEF troops to deploy.

"The window for people leaving in AEF 3 and 4 is December 15 to January 15," he said.

Lage said that tsunami-relief efforts did not change the number of troops Misawa diverted to the war on terrorism. The 35th Fighter Wing last week sent more than 20 people to

South Asia to help rebuild countries devastated by the Dec. 26 tidal waves.

Misawa military will be deployed to Southwest Asia for about 120 days. That's about a month longer than typical. Deployment lengths for most airmen were increased from 90 days to 120 this summer. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper made the policy change to meet the greater demands on the service since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: [svan@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:svan@stripes.osd.mil)

## Bowling Center contest

Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, is accepting submissions for its "Name Your Bowling Center" contest through Monday. Entries will be judged for uniqueness and creativity Jan. 28, with the winner to be announced Feb. 1. The winner will receive a variety of bowling specials. Call 243-4200 for more information.

## Blue Ridge gets award

The USS Blue Ridge recently was named a recipient of the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Retention Award for the second year in a row. Nearly 75 percent of all eligible sailors on board re-enlisted in 2004. The Blue Ridge kept its attrition rate down to 9 percent, half of the maximum allowed for award consideration.

## MLK celebration

Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan, will host a celebration to honor Martin Luther King Jr. at the chapel on Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. There will be guest speakers, a slide show and gospel music.

## Anti-drug musical

The Yokosuka Middle School Drama Club is to present the anti-drug musical "Forever Free" at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in the YMS multipurpose room. The performance is free. Popcorn will be available for a donation to aid Asian tsunami victims.

## Scholarship program

The Scholarships for Military Children program is accepting applications for \$1,500 scholarships through Feb. 16, program officials said.

The program is open to unmarried children of either active-duty or retired service members. Applicants must be 21 or younger or 23 or younger if currently enrolled in school. They must be planning to attend an accredited university full-time during the fall 2005 semester or be enrolled in a program designed to transfer to a four-year program. Student applicants and their parents also must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database and hold a current ID card.

Applications are available at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org) or at base commissaries.

From staff reports

# Air Force's only B-52 Reserve unit deploys 100 airmen to Guam

Stars and Stripes

The Air Force's only B-52 Reserve unit deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, earlier this week as part of an ongoing rotation to maintain a continual bomber force in the Pacific region.

More than 100 airmen with the 917th Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., began arriving on the island last weekend,

according to Andersen officials. The reservists, part of the 93rd Bomb Squadron, replaced those from the 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, which deployed to Andersen in September for a 120-day rotation.

Andersen spokesman Tech. Sgt. Jeff Capenos said the reservists brought more than five B-52s and are scheduled to remain on the island for a 120-day Air and Space Expe-

ditionary Force rotation.

"Around the world, guard and reserves are being called to duty," Capenos said. "The Air Force Guard and reserves are just as much a part of the Air Force as active duty. They volunteered to do this and they're here."

While at Andersen, the 93rd Bomb Squadron's primary mission is to enhance regional

security and increase training opportunities, base officials stressed in news releases. The training is to integrate B-52 operations into joint and coalition forces at the U.S. Pacific Command's forward-operating bases such as Andersen, the release stated.

Bomber units from the States have maintained a continuous presence at Andersen since early 2004.

# Indonesia sets deadline for troops to leave

## Government also will keep tabs on foreign aid workers, journalists

BY YEHO EN-LAI  
The Associated Press

**BANDA ACEH, Indonesia** — The U.S. military faced tighter restrictions Wednesday as the Indonesian government sought to reassert control over foreign troops, relief workers and journalists in the tsunami-devastated region, which also has been the site of a rebel insurgency.

Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla said foreign troops would be out of the country by March 31.

"A three-month period is enough, even the sooner the better," Kalla said.

The Pentagon said it is cooperating with foreign governments, but did not comment on the Indonesian deadline.

The moves by the Indonesian government, primarily aimed at U.S. troops, underscore the nationalistic country's senti-

tivities at having foreign military forces operating there — even in a humanitarian effort. They also came amid warnings from the Indonesian military that areas of tsunami-battered Aceh province may not be safe for aid workers.

Hundreds of troops from Australia, Singapore, Germany and other nations are also helping the relief mission. The Indonesian military is providing security for all of them.

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, which is leading the U.S. military's relief effort, steamed out of Indonesian waters Wednesday because the U.S. Navy only has permission from the Indonesians to fly into its airspace aircraft that are directly supporting the humanitarian operation, said Lt. Cmdr. John M. Daniels, spokesman for the Lincoln carrier strike group.

Helicopters still will deliver aid to Sumatra's devastated coast, however.

Indonesia declined to let the ship's fighter pilots use its airspace for training missions. Under U.S. Navy rules, pilots of carrier-based warplanes cannot go longer than 14 days without flying or their skills are considered to have degraded too far.

Since the Abraham Lincoln has been stationed off Sumatra since Jan. 1, the carrier moved out of Indonesian waters so its pilots could conduct their training flights in international airspace.

The Indonesian government also ordered aid workers and journalists to declare travel plans or face expulsion from Aceh as authorities moved to reassert control of the rebellion-wrecked area.

The White House said Wednesday it has asked the Indonesian government to explain the restrictions on aid workers and journalists.

At a Paris meeting Wednesday, a French official said the world's wealthiest nations, including the United States, believe a temporary suspension of billions of dollars in debt repayments by tsunami-devastated countries will provide a necessary "breath of oxygen" for recovery and reconstruction from the disaster that killed more than 150,000 people across southern Asia.

Security concerns threaten to hamper efforts to deliver aid to Aceh province on the northern tip of Sumatra island, where more than 100,000 people were killed and tens of thousands left homeless or in need. The United Nations has been running the relief effort, appealing to donors attending a conference in Geneva to honor the unprecedented \$4 billion in pledges to help victims.

Stars and Stripes reporter Leo Shane in Washington contributed to this report.

# Despite claims, Washington state finds no overseas ballot problems

BY LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

**WASHINGTON** — Washington state election officials and military officials say they have found no evidence of problems with overseas military absentee ballots, despite allegations that many may not have been delivered or counted.

"We're seeing allegations made that large numbers of military voters did not get ballots, but we think that's partisan rhetoric over a close election," said Pam Floyd, assistant elections director for the state. "And we believe all military ballots signed by Washington voters and received were counted."

But state Republicans believe that hundreds of overseas servicemembers never received their ballots, and that may have stolen the election from their gubernatorial candidate, Dino Rossi.

"We're getting tons of calls and e-mails from troops overseas who didn't receive their ballots, or who got them weeks after the election," said Mary Lane, spokeswoman for Rossi. "We're looking at a lot of disenfranchised military voters."

Lane provided Stars and Stripes with complaints from 14 family members who have loved ones in the military, most deployed overseas, who did not receive absentee ballots. The Rossi campaign said it has heard from 260 voters who claim not to have received ballots, though not all of them are military.

Department of Justice officials would not comment on reports that the federal government is investigating whether state elections officials broke the law by sending out the ballots too late. Republicans have

filed suit to mandate a new election because of the military issues and other supposed voting irregularities.

In November, Rossi was named the winner of the general election by 261 votes and won a machine recount by 42, but a second, manual recount last month showed Democrat Christine Gregoire with a 129-vote margin of victory.

Last month, Secretary of State Sam Reed, a Republican, certified the election results in Gregoire's favor, and on Tuesday the state House and Senate, both controlled by Democrats, followed suit. The Democrat was sworn in as governor on Wednesday.

Washington was the last state to send out its overseas ballots, with all but one county mailing them by Oct. 8, Floyd said. That left 39 days for overseas military personnel to receive and return the votes, which were accepted until 14 days after the November election.

Joe Hitt, spokesman for Fort Lewis in Washington, said none of the Army Reserve units currently deployed overseas have reported problems over missing or damaged ballots.

"It just seems to be something that's being blown up in the press," he said. "We haven't heard any complaints about ballots."

But Lane said her office has heard numerous complaints, even from troops who double-checked their registration and mailing addresses to make sure they received ballots.

Department of Defense officials did not return calls seeking comment on the ballot controversy. Arguments in the GOP court challenge will begin Friday.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.com



YOSHIO KAWABE/courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Yokosuka city police Chief Tami Takahashi, right, presents a letter of appreciation Wednesday to Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, commander Capt. King Dietrich, who will be departing later in the month.

# Yokosuka commander honored by local police

BY ERIK SLAVIN  
Stars and Stripes

Yokosuka Naval Base's top official received praise this week for his efforts to promote stronger ties between base and local police.

Yokosuka city Police Chief Tami Takahashi thanked Capt. King Dietrich in a letter of appreciation for having "greatly contributed to developing cooperation and friendships with Yokosuka Police Station."

Dietrich, whose tour as Yokosuka's commander ends Jan. 28, made great strides in preventing crimes and traffic accidents by servicemembers since arriving in July 2003, Takahashi said.

"He was a well-liked commander who gave support in public safety and has had good interaction with the Yokosuka residents on a regular basis," Takahashi said.

In November, Dietrich participated personally in a monthly night patrol of the "Honch" area just outside the base, Takahashi said. Base police also conducted a joint road-safety campaign in December and added DUI checkpoints.

Dietrich's efforts helped cut

the crime rate 40 percent over the past two years, according to a base spokesman. The added cooperation made it easier to reach an understanding with local police and have base citizens returned quickly, Dietrich said.

"It is less of a burden on the city and also allows us to bring SOFA members back under our control," Dietrich said.

However, cooperation swings both ways. Japanese police have been given leeway to extensively investigate base residents, within the bounds of the status of forces agreement.

"We opened the books to them as much as we possibly can under the law to be able to help them do their jobs," Dietrich said.

Yokosuka police officials brought up the idea of commending Dietrich after both officials and residents said he should be honored, Takahashi said.

"In presenting a letter of appreciation to Captain Dietrich, I hope that the relationship between Japan and the United States becomes closer and both countries keep cooperating with each other in the future," Takahashi said.

Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.  
E-mail Erik Slavin at: slavin@stripes.com

# Report: Navy sub hit 'incredibly hard'

Stars and Stripes

According to a report in Wednesday's New York Times, the nuclear submarine that ran aground Saturday in the South Pacific hit so "incredibly hard" that about 60 of 137 crewmembers were injured, and the sailor who died was thrown 20 feet, according to internal Navy e-mail messages sent by a top admiral.

The messages said the submarine's hull was severely damaged after the head-on crash into what Navy officials believe was an undersea mountain that was not on the navigation charts.

The messages were written by Rear Adm. Paul F. Sullivan, the

commander of submarines in the Pacific, the Times wrote.

Sullivan, based in Hawaii, sent the e-mail messages to other Navy officials. As the messages circulated within the submarine community, two people provided copies to The New York Times, and Navy officials confirmed their authenticity.

The e-mail also indicated that about 60 crewmembers had been injured. All the Navy had said publicly was that 23 crewmembers were treated for broken bones, cuts and bruises.

The messages said those 23 were hurt seriously enough that they were unable to stand their watch duties as the submarine limped back to Guam.

Dan Ashley, father of Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Joseph Allen Ashley of Akron, Ohio, the only sailor who died in the incident, said the submarine's captain, Cmdr. Kevin Mooney, told him the phone on Monday that among the injured crewmembers, "there were a lot of broken fingers, broken arms and legs and one fractured back."

An e-mail also said an outer hull ripped open at the submarine's nose and flooded it, which caused the submarine to sit deeper in the water and made it hard to maneuver on the trip back to Guam. Sailors had to keep pumping pressurized air into the tanks to maintain buoyancy.



# Planting the seeds of freedom

## Army captain's idea to benefit Afghan schoolchildren blossoming into charity

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY  
Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A minister's sermon, a dinner chat with mom and a series of thank-you notes have helped launch a humanitarian effort that stretches from the mud hovels of Afghanistan to the high-rises of America.

It is the effort of a U.S. Army captain who took a seed of an idea to assist Afghan schoolchildren and nurtured it into a full-fledged nongovernmental organization.

In characteristic fashion, Capt. Todd Schmidt modestly attributes the growth of Operation Dreamseed Inc. to "the heartland heroes' back home." They range from a large New York City law firm and a Chicago philanthropist, to a Houston middle school and a Beverly Hills investment-consulting firm.

Another backer is Abdul Aziz, who emigrated from Afghanistan to the United States in 1980, starting his new life as a dishwasher.

"I couldn't believe it," Aziz said of Schmidt's efforts. Aziz, a civil engineer, spoke by telephone from his home in Corona, Calif. "He's a wonderful person. I hope he succeeds, and I'll help him as much as I can."

That help doesn't involve just the folks back home.

Dozens of soldiers assisted Schmidt with Dreamseed's efforts. Aziz, a civil engineer, spoke by telephone from his home in Corona, Calif. "He's a wonderful person. I hope he succeeds, and I'll help him as much as I can."

ceived a backpack stuffed with school supplies from donors in the United States.

"We had a soccer field filled with kids," Schmidt said of the event. "That was something."

The idea for Dreamseed began in February, when Schmidt returned to his boyhood home in Greenwood, Ind.

Schmidt and his wife, Joy, were visiting family before his deployment to Afghanistan. One night, while seated at his parents' dinner table, his mother, Wendy, asked him to look for ways she and her pupils at Maple Grove Elementary School could make a difference for Afghan children.

When he and other members of the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii headed to Afghanistan in the spring, Schmidt began to survey the conditions of local schools in the Kandahar area.

"You can walk into just about any classroom and see that they don't have chalkboards," Schmidt said. "They don't have desks or chairs. Most classrooms have dirt floors, and there are no window panes and no doors."

At about the same time, Schmidt and the other soldiers of his unit, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, began receiving care packages from anonymous people in the United States. The goodie boxes consisted of the normal fare, such as candy and hygiene items, Schmidt had one request of his soldiers: When you receive a care package, reply with a short thank-you note.

"He makes the best in everything he

does," said Spc. Christopher Cipponeri, a 21-year-old assigned to the battery.

That simple gesture made a huge impression.

"When we sent those thank-you notes," Schmidt said, "everything kind of blossomed out of it."

The notes generated return letters, many asking the troops what else they might need. "We have everything you need, really, when you think about it," the 32-year-old captain said, referring to the amenities on base.

Schmidt began thinking of the Afghan children. His thoughts and observations were passed along in letters. That was all it took to set in motion Dreamseed, a term he borrowed from a minister back home.

One of the care packages his unit received was from Connie Fratainni, a partner in the New York law firm Shearman & Sterling. Letters evolved into e-mails and then to phone calls. Eventually, Fratainni and another partner, Saralynn Cohen, offered to provide pro bono work to incorporate Dreamseed and to help it apply for tax-exempt status as a nonprofit organization.

Dreamseed was formally incorporated on Nov. 12. By that time, donors large and small had stepped forward.

The mission, Schmidt said, involves three phases. The first is to provide schoolchildren in southern Afghanistan with basic school supplies.

Next is the renovation of schools. In a land where only 5 million of the nation's 28 million people can read, Schmidt noted that

some teachers have their work cut out for them. In some cases, they use rocks to scrawl lesson plans on the walls of their mud-brick classrooms.

"These kids have nothing," said Cipponeri, who has played a major role in helping Schmidt. "All these children have smiles on their faces and wear rags for clothes. When you help them, it opens a new part of you in your heart."

What's important to Joy Schmidt is her husband's safe return. On the organization's Web site, she wrote a congratulatory note, but implored him "to stay focused" on his primary responsibility — being a soldier. Schmidt smiled as he recounted those words.

One concern that seems to have dissipated is who will carry on his work in Afghanistan.

Aziz plans to return to assist the Afghan government, and cash donations to Dreamseed should allow Schmidt to hire two full-time employees. In addition, an officer with the 173rd Airborne Brigade from Vicenza, Italy, the unit that will replace the 25th ID in the spring, has pledged to keep the initiative going.

The good will of so many people back home "is humbling," Schmidt said. "There are so many great people across America."

"If you have a generation of kids that realize the importance of education, to me, that's an investment in the future," Schmidt added. "We Americans need to foster those seeds of hope."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: [doughertyk@mail.esrpress.osd.mil](mailto:doughertyk@mail.esrpress.osd.mil)

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# Fruitless WMD search comes to an end

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq has quietly concluded without any evidence of the banned weapons that President Bush cited as justification for going to war, the White House said Wednesday.

The Iraq Survey Group, made up of some 1,200 military and intelligence specialists and support staff, spent nearly two years searching military installations, factories and laboratories whose equipment and products might be converted quickly to make weapons.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said there no longer is an active

## Iraq Survey Group inspectors return home after two-year hunt

search for weapons. "There may be a couple, a few people, that are focused on that" but that it has largely concluded, he said.

"If they have any reports of [weapons of mass destruction], obviously they'll continue to follow up on those reports," McClellan said. "A lot of their mission is focused elsewhere now."

Chief U.S. weapons hunter Charles Duelfer is to deliver his final report on the search next month.

"It's not going to fundamentally alter the findings of his earlier report," McClellan

said, referring to preliminary findings from last September. Duelfer reported then that Saddam Hussein not only had no weapons of mass destruction and had not made any since 1991, but that he had no capability of making any either. Bush unapologetically defended his decision to invade Iraq.

Duelfer is expected to report on the removal of enriched uranium, a key ingredient in nuclear weapons production, and that the United States was offering jobs to Iraqis engaged in weapons programs, an-

other administration official said on condition of anonymity.

Bush has appointed a panel to investigate why the intelligence about Iraq's weapons was wrong.

The Washington Post reported that Duelfer is home, and analysts are back at Langley, Va.

In interviews, officials who served with the Iraq Survey Group said the violence in Iraq, coupled with a lack of new information, led them to fold up the effort shortly before Christmas.

## Witness says Graner often disobeyed orders

By T.A. BADGER

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — The first witness for Army Spc. Charles Graner, Jr., alleged ringleader in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse case, said under cross examination Thursday that Graner routinely disobeyed orders while serving as a guard there.

The testimony from Master Sgt. Brian Lipinski could undermine Graner's contention that he was just following orders to soften up Iraqi inmates for interrogation.

A civilian intelligence officer, also called by the defense, later said physical and psychological techniques were used to make detainees more cooperative, but he thought Graner and other Abu Ghraib guards were acting on their own.

"They assumed all Iraqis were terrorists and needed discipline," said Roger Brokaw, a former soldier. "It had nothing to do with the interrogation process."

Lipinski, then the top non-commissioned officer in the 372nd Military Police Company, said

Graner wore his hair too long, altered his uniform in violation of regulations and refused to stay away from Pfc.

Lyndie England despite being repeatedly told to do so.

"He just didn't like to follow orders" prosecutor Maj. Michael

Holley asked Lipinski.

"That's true, sir," Lipinski said. "He wants to do his own thing?" Holley said.

"Yes, sir," the sergeant said. England, who is awaiting trial on Abu Ghraib abuse charges, gave birth in October to a child who Army prosecutors say was fathered by Graner.

Graner, a 36-year-old reservist from Uniontown, Pa., is the first soldier to stand trial in the scandal. He is charged with offenses including conspiracy, assault and committing indecent acts and could get 1½ years in a military prison.



Graner

## Bush: No women in combat

Stars and Stripes

President Bush made clear his position on women in ground combat Tuesday: No women in combat.

Despite extended tours of duties in Iraq for soldiers and an Army examination of women's roles, the president told editors and reporters of The Washington Times in an Oval Office interview that he has no intention of sending women into ground combat, a mission for which they are banned under Pentagon policy.

"There's no change of policy as far as I'm concerned," Bush told the Times. "No women in com-

bat. Having said that, let me explain, we've got to make sure we define combat properly. We've got women flying choppers and women flying fighters, which I'm perfectly content with."

The question came up in light of the Army's transforming its 10 active-combat divisions and re-examining women's roles. Instead of the normal three brigades per division, each division will have four or more "units of action." They are being designed to train and deploy as one modular unit, with combat and support units the one.

Therein lies the potential prob-

lem, the Times wrote. Pentagon policy not only bans women from direct combat brigades, such as infantry or armor, it also says they cannot join support units that collocate with those units.

Congress requires that any change in women-in-combat rules first be reported to lawmakers.

In 1994, after reports of women excelling during Operation Desert Storm, the Clinton administration lifted bans on women in combat aircraft and ships. But it retained the prohibition against women in ground combat units and collocation, the Times reported.



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# U.S., Russia near arms trafficking deal

BY ROBERT BURNS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and Russia are close to completing an agreement designed to limit trafficking in portable air-defense missiles, which some security experts fear terrorists could use against commercial airliners, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Tuesday.

At a joint news conference with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Ivanov provided few details but said the proposed accord reflected a common interest between the United States and Russia in constraining the unauthorized movement of these weapons around the world.

"You know full well that terrorists of all hues and stripes" have sought to obtain them, he said.

Ivanov, speaking through an interpreter, said "an agreement on the exchange of information" on portable air-defense weapons would be signed by the two countries "pretty soon."

He said the agreement was put together quickly "because it was in the best interests of both states to maximally constrain" the movement of such weapons, such as the American-made Stinger shoulder-fired missiles the CIA supplied to Afghan rebels fighting Soviet forces in the 1980s.



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld listens to Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov during a news conference Tuesday at the Pentagon in Washington.

Ivanov said "negligible amounts" of Russian-made air defense weapons also were in Afghanistan, and they are included in the inventories of many central and eastern European countries.

Rumsfeld did not comment on the deal and other U.S. officials did not immediately have any information.

Later, after a meeting with President Bush at the White House, Ivanov told reporters he

and Rumsfeld had briefly filled the president in on the "understanding between the governments of the two countries to control the movements" of such weapons.

Typically, these relatively cheap weapons are small, rocket-propelled warheads with heat-seeking sensors. They are designed to be triggered from a tube-like, disposable launcher and to follow the heat of a jet en-

gine's exhaust to its source. The CIA-backed rebels in Afghanistan used Stingers to great effect against Russian helicopters and other low-flying aircraft during the 1980s.

Ivanov also said he had accepted a U.S. invitation for Russian forces to participate in a U.S.-based military exercise to "handle nuclear safety issues while transporting nuclear munitions." He did not elaborate.

## Afghan vote a model

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said Wednesday he hoped Iraq's election would mirror the recent vote in Afghanistan in helping to "squell" militants and smooth the road to democracy.

After talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Frist, R-Tenn., said "nobody can anticipate" what will happen when Iraqis vote in elections set for Jan. 30.

"Our hope is that we will see something very similar ... [which will] squell, or overcome and overpower insurgencies, challenges to democracy, in a way that will far surpass people's anticipations," Frist told reporters.

## Stem cell green light

SEOUL — A South Korean team of scientists who produced the first cloned human embryo last year were given government approval Wednesday to proceed with stem-cell research to find cures for diabetes, cerebral palsy and Parkinson's and other diseases — but not for work toward human cloning.

The scientists, led by Professor Hwang Woo-Seok of Seoul National University, must follow detailed guidelines set by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in December, one of which allows experimentation with unused eggs at fertility clinics.

From The Associated Press



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# U.S. congressional delegation arrives for visit in Pyongyang

The Associated Press

SEOUL — A group of U.S. congressmen met with North Korea's foreign minister in Pyongyang on Wednesday, the communist state's official news agency said, amid efforts to persuade the North to join talks on its nuclear weapons ambitions.

A bipartisan delegation led by Republican Rep. Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania arrived in Pyongyang on Tuesday for a four-day visit as part of efforts to keep dialogue open between the United States and North Korea, especially over the North's nuclear weapons program.

The delegation met Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun on Wednesday, the official Korean Central News Agency said.

The six U.S. lawmakers also met Gen. Ri Chan Bok, the North Korean military's chief representative overseeing the 1950 armistice that ended the three-year Korean War between communist forces and American-led U.N. troops, KCNA said.

They also visited an art studio in Pyongyang, it said.

KCNA did not give further details.

From Pyongyang, the U.S. delegation is to travel to Russia, South Korea, China and Japan — the four other countries involved in six-nation negotiations aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

The six nations are struggling to arrange a new round of talks after the North refused to attend talks scheduled for last September. The three previous rounds produced no breakthroughs.

Weldon led a group of lawmakers to North Korea in May 2003, after Washington accused the North of running a clandestine nuclear program in 2002.

The latest visit followed a similar one by Rep. Tom Lantos, the top Democrat on the U.S. House International Relations Committee, who led a delegation to North Korea last week.

# N. Korean refugee news conference broken up

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A group of unidentified men broke up a news conference Wednesday by four South Korean lawmakers about the diplomatically volatile issue of North Korean refugees, forcing reporters out of a Beijing hotel conference hall and barring access to the room.

A South Korean government spokesman expressed regret over the incident and said Seoul would take unspecified "necessary measures" in response.

About a dozen men, apparently

plainclothes security agents, turned off the lights in the windowless room minutes after the news conference began at the Beijing Great Wall Sheraton Hotel.

Shouting "Leave!", they shoved some reporters out of the room and prevented them from returning. An Associated Press photographer was hit on the side of the head during the scuffle.

Ten journalists remained with the South Koreans in the dark for almost two hours, but were prevented from talking to them.

According to a South Korean offi-

cial, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the men who broke up the news conference said it was illegal but wouldn't give any explanation.

"We want to see the relevant law," said Kim Moon-soo, a delegation leader. "If you show us the law that prohibits us from holding a meeting today, then we will abide by the law."

The South Korean delegates later issued a statement appealing to the Chinese government to allow North Koreans hiding in China to leave the country and to release a jailed South Korean activist.

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# 4 more bodies found after Calif. mudslide

By GREG RISLING

The Associated Press

LA CONCHITA, Calif. — Rescuers searching with shovels, their bare hands and tiny video cameras dropped into holes found the bodies of a woman and three of her children before dawn Wednesday, bringing the death toll from a mudslide in this seaside hamlet to 10, officials said.

Ventura County Fire Capt. Danny Rodriguez said the bodies were found as crews worked around the clock for a second straight night, swarming over the debris pile under a clear sky and powerful lights.

The four dead were the wife and three daughters of La Conchita resident Jimmie Wallet, Ventura County sheriff's chaplain Ron Matthews told The Associated Press.

The storms also were blamed

## Death toll now stands at 10 in seaside town

for flooding that destroyed homes in Arizona and Utah.

Twelve people were still listed as missing after Monday's 30-foot-deep mudslide, which was triggered by five days of nearly nonstop rain. But officials said that number was expected to be reduced to eight to reflect the discovery of the mother and children. With the 10 known dead at La Conchita, the storm's toll in California since Friday rose to 25.

Wallet had been among the most visible of the town's residents since the slide as he frantically searched alongside firefighters for his 37-year-old wife, Michelle, and daughters Hannah, 10, Raven, 6, and Paloma, 2.

After the bodies were found, friends took him out of town with

his 16-year-old daughter. Wallet was out getting ice cream when the slide hit, while his teen daughter was in Ventura.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger toured the town by helicopter on Wednesday morning and planned to meet with residents and reporters.

The days of torrential rain also triggered fatal traffic accidents all across the state, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands, imperiled hillside homes and caused flash floods. The searchers were using dogs trained to search for live victims and others that can locate cadavers.

Rescuers got a break Tuesday when the rain finally stopped.

National Weather Service forecaster Stuart Seto said clear weather was expected to continue through at least the weekend.



AP

Emergency workers search through debris for survivors trapped inside collapsed homes after a mudslide Monday in La Conchita, Calif.

## More word of lasers hitting airplanes

By LESLIE MILLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At least a dozen cases of lasers being beamed into aircraft cockpits since Christmas are being investigated by the FBI. The lasers can temporarily blind pilots.

A cluster of incidents received wide attention between Christmas and New Year's Day, and the FBI says at least four more have occurred in the past week.

Authorities have continued to rule out terrorism.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta was briefing reporters Wednesday about the issue at the Federal Aviation Administration's aeronautical research center in Oklahoma City.

Mineta was expected to announce new measures for alerting pilots and preparing them to react when lasers are shined at their aircraft. He was also expected to outline ways to notify law enforcement investigators more quickly.

Last week, a pilot told law enforcement officials that a green light appeared on the nose of his aircraft as it was taking off from the Burbank, Calif., airport.

"To our knowledge there was no danger to the aircraft," said Cathy Viray, spokeswoman for the FBI in Los Angeles.

Last weekend, two pilots near Washington Dulles International Airport reported lasers beamed at them, according to FBI spokeswoman Debra Weisman.

The first incident occurred Saturday and involved a helicopter from the Fairfax County (Va.) Police Department; the other happened Sunday to a US Airways Express flight.

Weisman said the bureau was investigating.

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# NASA spacecraft out to smash comet

BY MARCIA DUNN  
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A NASA spacecraft with a Hollywood name — Deep Impact — blasted off Wednesday on a mission to smash a hole in a comet and give scientists a glimpse of the frozen primordial ingredients of the solar system.

With a launch window only one second long, Deep Impact rocketed away at the designated moment on a six-month, 268 million-mile journey to Comet Tempel 1. It will be a one-way trip that NASA hopes will reach a cataclysmic end on the Fourth of July.

"We are on our way," said an excited Michael A. Hearn of the University of Maryland, the mission's chief scientist. Minutes later, the spacecraft shot out of Earth's orbit and onto its collision course.

"We'll be there July Fourth," NASA launch director Omar Baez said.

Scientists are counting on Deep Impact to carve out a crater in Comet Tempel 1 that could swallow the Roman Coliseum. It will be humans' first look into the heart of a comet, a celestial snowball still containing the original building blocks of the sun and the planets.

Because of the relative speed of the two objects at the moment of impact — 23,000 mph — no explo-

sives are needed for the job. The force of the smash-up will be equivalent to 4 1/2 tons of TNT, creating a flash that just might be visible in the dark sky by the naked eye in one spectacular Fourth of July fireworks display.

Nothing like this has ever been attempted before. Little is known about Comet Tempel 1, other than that it is an icy, rocky body about nine miles long and three miles wide.

Scientists do not even know whether the crust will be as hard as concrete or as flimsy as corn flakes.

"One of the scary things is that we won't actually know the shape and what it looks like until after we do the encounter," said Jay Melosh, a planetary geologist at the University of Arizona.

The comet will be more than 80 million miles from Earth when the collision takes place — on the sunlit side of the comet, NASA hopes, in order to ensure good viewing by spacecraft cameras and observatories. The resulting crater is expected to be two to 14 stories deep, and perhaps 300 feet in diameter.

A jagged, cratered comet like the one headed for Earth in the 1998 movie "Deep Impact" would be difficult if not impossible to hit because of all the shadows, Melosh said. Comet Tempel 1 is believed to be dark and easier to strike, unlike that "Hollywood nightmare."



A Delta II rocket carrying the Deep Impact spacecraft lifts off from the Cape Canaveral, Fla., Air Force Station on Wednesday.

## Bond in KKK case

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — Edgar Ray Killen, the reputed Klansman charged with the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers in rural Mississippi, was ordered held Wednesday on \$250,000 bond as he awaits a March 28 trial.

Circuit Judge Marcus Gordon also ordered that if Killen is able to post the bond, he must report to the sheriff each week on his whereabouts.

Killen, a 78-year-old part-time preacher, stood in an orange jail jumpsuit and nodded when the judge asked him if he could hear.

The lifelong resident of this Mississippi town had said after his arraignment last week that he was unable to afford an attorney despite owning 20 acres of land, a small sawmill and vehicles.

## Tenn. garage killings

JACKSON, Tenn. — A man was being held Wednesday after a bloody rampage at a state maintenance garage. The man's estranged wife and two others were killed, and two others were wounded.

Homicide and attempted homicide charges were expected to be filed against David Jordan, 40, police said.

According to police, Jordan — armed with an assault rifle, a 12-gauge pump shotgun, a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol and a .45-caliber semiautomatic pistol — walked into the Department of Transportation garage Tuesday and opened fire on his wife, department employee Donna Renee Jordan, 31. She died at the scene.

## E-mail porn ads nixed

WASHINGTON — Claiming a victory against X-rated spam, the Federal Trade Commission won an order to shut down illegal Internet advertising for six companies accused of profiting from sexually explicit e-mail.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Philip M. Pro in Las Vegas on Tuesday granted the commission's request for preliminary injunctions against the companies, their executives and an affiliate, which would last the length of the FTC's civil suit against them. The FTC says the defendants violated federal laws regulating commercial electronic mail, commonly known as spam.

## Dean out to lead DNC

WASHINGTON — Former presidential candidate Howard Dean has decided to seek the party's chairmanship.

Dean's entry into the race appears to pre-empt another bid for the presidency in 2008. The chairman's job carries a four-year term and Dean has said that anyone who serves as chairman should be ruled out as a presidential candidate.

Dean joins a field that includes former Indiana Rep. Tim Wroemer, former Texas Rep. Martin Frost, Democratic activists Simon Rosenberg and Donnie Fowler, former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb and former Ohio Democratic Party chairman David Leach.

From wire reports

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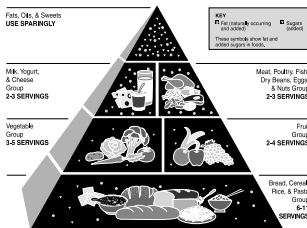
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## Food Guide Pyramid

A Guide to Daily Food Choices



Source: USDA, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services.

Shown is the USDA's original food pyramid, created 12 years ago. Revised dietary guidelines issued Wednesday emphasize eating whole grains and more fruits and vegetables.

## New diet guidelines stress grains, fruits

BY LIBBY QUAID  
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government on Wednesday urged most Americans to eat fewer calories and exercise 30 to 90 minutes a day, updating guidelines that advised people to lose weight but gave few specifics on how to do it.

The new dietary guidelines will be used to update the familiar food pyramid, which most people recognize but few heed. The revision will be the pyramid's first since it was created 12 years ago.

Federal officials acknowledged that much of the advice will not be new to Americans, who spent millions on diet books trying to lose weight.

The guidelines, developed by HHS and the Agriculture Department, strengthen the government's advice on whole grains, telling people to choose whole grains such as whole wheat bread instead of refined ones like white bread or bagels.

People should also eat a lot more vegetables and fruit, particu-

larly whole fruits and vegetables rather than juices, the guidelines said. They recommend three one-ounce servings of whole grains each day, such as certain unsweetened breakfast cereals, to reduce the risk of heart disease and help maintain weight.

The guidelines were based on recommendations of a 13-member panel of scientists and doctors. The committee said people lead sedentary lifestyles and choose their food poorly, leading many to exceed the calories they need even as they fail to get enough nutrition.

Controlling calories — not limiting carbohydrates, as some popular diets recommend — is key to controlling weight, the panel said.

Also key is daily exercise. The panel recommended a minimum of at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise — brisk walking or gardening — on most days.

But it said many adults need to exercise for 60 minutes or more to prevent weight gain, and people who have lost weight may need to exercise for 60 to 90 minutes to keep it off.

## Justices finds fault with federal sentencing rules

BY GINA HOLLAND  
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that federal judges have been improperly adding time to criminals' sentences, a decision that puts in doubt longtime sentencing rules.

The court, on a 5-4 vote, said that its ruling last June that judges — not judges — should consider factors that can add years to defendants' prison sentences applies as well to the 17-year-old federal guideline system.

The justices refused to backtrack from a 5-4 decision that struck down a state sentencing system because it gave judges too much leeway in sentencing. But the high court stopped short of striking down the federal system.

Justice Stephen Breyer said the federal sentencing system is at least in part invalid because it forces judges to use the guidelines. But he said that the system could be salvaged, if judges use it on an advisory basis.

About 64,000 people are sentenced in federal courts each year, under a system that had been challenged as unconstitutional in a pair of cases at the Supreme Court.

The federal guidelines are intended to make sure sentences do not vary widely from courtroom-to-courtroom.

While juries consider guilt or innocence, judges make factual decisions that affect prison time, such as the amount of drugs involved in a crime, the number of victims in a fraud or whether a defendant committed perjury during trial.

## New Apple products going smaller, more affordable

BY MAY WONG  
 The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Seeking to make inroads against lower-cost competitors, Apple Computer Inc. introduced a cut-rate computer the size of a paperbook and a tiny iPod that starts at \$99 but holds far fewer songs than the company's hard drive-based music players.

The new products were introduced Tuesday by Apple CEO Steve Jobs at Macworld Expo.

The Mac mini computer goes on sale Jan. 22 and represent Apple's first foray into the budget desktop PC arena, which has been largely closed to personal computers that rely on Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system.

Smaller than even some standalone external computer drives, they lack a monitor, mouse and keyboard. The 40-gigabyte Mac mini will cost \$499, an 80-gigabyte model \$599.

They'll ship with Apple's latest operating system, Mac OS X Panther, as well as the newest version of its Life Suite of digital media software programs, also unveiled Tuesday.

"People who are thinking of switching will have no more excuses," Jobs said. "It's the newest and most affordable Mac ever."

Apple has just a 3 percent share of the U.S. computer market, and company executives say they're aiming with the Mac mini to woo PC users who may have felt Apple products were too high-priced.

The iPod shuffle, on the other hand, seeks to build on Apple's steady success in the portable music business while appealing to people seeking flash memory-based players, which are more durable and lightweight than those using hard drives for storage — and thus better suited as exercise partners.

The shuffle is smaller than most packs of chewing gum, weighs less than an ounce and is a third of an inch thick.

Unlike its larger cousin, the iPod mini, the shuffle lacks a display. There's a scroll wheel for the controls so stored songs can either be played sequentially or automatically shuffled in random order.

Apple is selling two versions of the iPod shuffle.



APPLE COMPUTERS/AP

Apple is releasing a new, smaller \$99 version of its popular iPod, as well as a mini computer selling for as low as \$499.

The smallest-capacity model will have 512 megabytes of storage, which holds up to 120 songs, and costs \$99. A one-gigabyte version, which holds up to 240 songs, will sell for \$149.

Until Tuesday, the lowest cost iPod was the mini, which costs \$249 for four gigabytes — enough to store about 1,000 songs.

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## Dynamic stability control helps keep cars from losing control

Dear Tom and Ray:

My husband and I recently moved from Connecticut to Colorado, and are considering buying a new car.

We have a 2000 BMW 528i, which I have loved, but because we are now in a place with a lot more snow and in a country with a lot of dirt and gravel roads, it doesn't really fit our needs anymore. Neither of us wants a sport utility vehicle, but we have been considering the Subaru Outback Wagon. My question: The vehicle dynamics control is only available on the most expensive model. Is that system worth the extra cost?

My husband is suspicious of any system that claims to take over for the driver—probably because when he was younger, he raced cars, and he likes to feel as if he always has control—but I will be the main driver of the car, and I'm a normal driver. Is it worth it? Thanks so much, — Dee

TOM: The short answer is yes. It IS worth it. More and more studies are showing that dynamic stability control (often referred to by a confusing array of acronyms like VDC, DSC, ESP, MSPCA, etc.) does a lot to help people avoid accidents.

RAY: Dynamic stability control is one of the newest electronic forms of skid control. These systems work by using sensors to detect signs of a skid, then limiting acceleration and applying the brakes on individual wheels to regain control of the car.

TOM: Why do you want to prevent a skid? Well, once you're skidding—once the tires are no longer in full contact with the road—it's very hard to control the car. You're much more likely to plow into something, be it another car, a tree or a mango-smoothie stand by the side of the road.

RAY: These days, the three major anti-skid systems are: ABS, or antilock-brake systems, which help you avoid skidding when you're making an

emergency stop; TCS, or traction control, which helps you avoid skids while you accelerate; and DSC (or whatever each manufacturer happens to call its version of dynamic stability control), which helps you avoid skids while you're moving and turning. DSC helps prevent you from losing control of the car when you take a corner too fast or swerve to avoid something. And it works.

TOM: So, if it's available—and sadly, Subaru only makes it available on the top-of-the-line Outback—we'd recommend it.

## Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

RAY: Your husband—like most guys who take his position—is wrong. Sure, we all want to be "in control." But the fact is that microcomputers can handle certain tasks better than even the most skilled driver ever could. The computer that controls these systems can pulse an individual wheel's brake 10 or 15 times per second. A human driver could never do that.

TOM: Of course, most cars with stability control have a switch that allows you to turn it off. So, if your husband is determined to have control, he can turn off the system, make some high-speed swerves and crash your new car into a chicken coop to prove our point.

RAY: But dynamic stability control is something we DO recommend, when it's available. And we hope it will be available on more cars and SUVs as things go by (Ford just announced that it's putting it on all its SUVs in 2005, and Chevy is putting it on its full-size SUVs and vans).

TOM: By the way, Dee, the Subaru Outback is a very nice car. But since you love your BMW, you might also consider the BMW 325xi. It's smaller than your current car, but it comes with all-wheel-drive and dynamic stability control.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

## Workers thankful for jobs, not war

By DAVID STREITFIELD  
Los Angeles Times

OPP, Ala.—Euna DuBoise works in a factory sewing camouflage trousers for Marines. As the grandmother of three soldiers, this gives her some uneasy moments.

An extra-small pair of pants will make her think, this fellow's just a baby. She'll wonder: Will he get home safe? And what about her son's sons—one in Afghanistan, one awaiting orders in Mississippi, one just home from Mosul but perhaps destined to return to Iraq? DuBoise never had thoughts like this with her last job, when she made Levi's.

"I'd rather be doing jeans," the 60-year-old said. "No emotions were involved."

She doesn't have much choice. The last jeans factory here failed two years ago. But the Marine-uniform plant is thriving.

The war in Iraq is giving a boost to apparel and other communities. Over the past two years, military spending has become a pillar of the economy for the first time since President Reagan ordered the Cold War buildup of the mid-1980s.

Defense spending accounted for 11 percent of the third quarter's economic growth, double the rate of two years ago, according to government figures released recently.

That number underestimates the effect of the war, analysts say, because it doesn't account for military contractors upping orders of equipment and raw material from their own suppliers, creating a wide ripple.

Companies in Evansville, Ind., Union City, Ga., Mullins, S.C., and McAllen, Texas, have just been awarded contracts totaling \$91 million to make sol-

diers' Meals, Ready-to-Eat. Companies in Mount Gilead and Waverlyville, N.C., Bellevue, Ill., and Atlanta won contracts worth a combined \$70 million to make hot-weather body armor. In San Ramon, Calif., Chevron/Texaco Corp. received a \$108 million contract for jet fuel.

All of these contracts were awarded by the Defense Logistics Agency, an arm of the Defense Department that buys apparel, fuel, medicine, construction material and repair parts. For the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, the agency budgeted \$28 billion worth of material and services, up 12 percent from the previous year.

No one is tracking what the spending is doing to employment, but the effect might be considerable. Sopakco Inc., the South Carolina company making MREs, published a \$35 million contract extension two years ago as creating 250 jobs.

Opp never any time it can get. Its heyday was 20 years ago, when this region near the Florida border was thick with apparel plants.

The quest for cheaper labor drove all those factories to Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America. That caused a downturn that left Opp's downtown with 14 empty stores along its two-block wide. Even the McDonald's recently closed.

Yet if the war is providing Opp with a rare jolt of economic activity, the reason is the war prompts ambivalence.

"If it weren't for the war, we wouldn't have a job. But that doesn't mean it's good that there's a war," said Patricia Walker, who outlines the flies on 600 pairs of trousers a day. "It makes my head spin." Walker's daughter, Salena, is stationed with the National Guard in Italy.

## TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

## EXCHANGE RATES

INDEXES									
52-week	High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	%	YTD	52-week	
18,958.17	9,755.41	Dow Jones Industrial	3,624.26	-18.97	-0.52	-4.85	+0.79		
3,623.96	2,463.46	Dow Jones Transportation	255.70	-1.60	-0.62	-0.75	+2.36		
337.79	259.08	Dow Jones Utilities	7,044.11	-37.59	-0.53	-2.84	+0.83		
7,273.18	6,211.33	NYSE Composite	1,032.67	-5.29	-0.51	-3.81	+15.86		
1,435.15	1,132.74	AMEX Index	2,082.62	-12.42	-0.60	-1.40	-0.80		
1,951.69	1,753.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,182.99	-7.26	-0.61	-3.39	+5.51		
1,221.90	1,068.72	S&P 500	619.52	-4.08	-0.66	-1.34	+6.63		
549.29	549.29	Russell 2000	611.53	-2.41	-0.39	-1.01	+1.45		
515.59	515.59	SmallCap 2000	11,617.69	-79.14	-0.68	-3.95	+6.23		
12,024.36	10,256.52	DJ Wilshire 5000							

NYSE									
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	AMEX	NASDAQ	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
IBM	100	100	100	IBM	100	100	100	IBM	100
Microsoft	100	100	100	Microsoft	100	100	100	Microsoft	100
Apple	100	100	100	Apple	100	100	100	Apple	100
Oracle	100	100	100	Oracle	100	100	100	Oracle	100
Amazon.com	100	100	100	Amazon.com	100	100	100	Amazon.com	100
Google	100	100	100	Google	100	100	100	Google	100
Yahoo	100	100	100	Yahoo	100	100	100	Yahoo	100
Alibaba	100	100	100	Alibaba	100	100	100	Alibaba	100
Facebook	100	100	100	Facebook	100	100	100	Facebook	100
Twitter	100	100	100	Twitter	100	100	100	Twitter	100

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS									
Name	Div	PE	LC	YTD	Name	Div	PE	LC	YTD
Aviation Technology	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34	Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34
Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34	Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34
Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34	Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34
Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34	Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34
Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34	Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34
Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34	Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34
Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34	Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34
Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34	Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34
Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34	Boeing	1.00	18.46	18.46	+34

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS									
Name	Div	PE	LC	YTD	Name	Div	PE	LC	YTD
Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17		Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17	
Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17		Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17	
Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17		Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17	
Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17		Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17	
Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17		Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17	
Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17		Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17	
Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17		Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17	
Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17		Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17	
Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17		Fidelity Investor Growth	37.58	-18	-17	

MILITARY RATES									
Japanese Yen (Jan. 12)	102.00	South Korean Won (Jan. 12)	1,019.00	Euro cents (Jan. 12)	1,356.00	British Pound (Jan. 12)	1.53	Swiss Franc (Jan. 12)	1.53
Japanese Yen (Jan. 12)	102.00	South Korean Won (Jan. 12)	1,019.00	Euro cents (Jan. 12)	1,356.00	British Pound (Jan. 12)	1.53	Swiss Franc (Jan. 12)	1.53
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for monthly currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are better than bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc case	
Gold	\$421.90

PRECIOUS METALS									
Gold	421.90	Silver	56.23	Crude Oil	26.12	Natural Gas	1.12	Heating Oil	1.12
Gold	421.90	Silver	56.23	Crude Oil	26.12	Natural Gas	1.12	Heating Oil	1.12
Gold	421.90	Silver	56.23	Crude Oil	26.12	Natural Gas	1.12	Heating Oil	1.12
Gold	421.90	Silver	56.23	Crude Oil	26.12	Natural Gas	1.12	Heating Oil	1.12
Gold	421.90	Silver	56.23	Crude Oil	26.12	Natural Gas	1.12	Heating Oil	1.12
Gold	421.90	Silver	56.23	Crude Oil	26.12	Natural Gas	1.12	Heating Oil	1.12
Gold	421.90	Silver	56.23	Crude Oil	26.12	Natural Gas	1.12	Heating Oil	1.12
Gold	421.90	Silver	56.23	Crude Oil	26.12	Natural Gas	1.12	Heating Oil	1.12
Gold	421.90	Silver	56.23	Crude Oil	26.12	Natural Gas	1.12	Heating Oil	1.12
Gold	421.90	Silver	56.23	Crude Oil	26.12	Natural Gas	1.12	Heating Oil	1.12

INTEREST RATES									
Prime rate	5.25	Discount rate	5.25	3-month bill	5.25	6-month bill	5.25	9-month bill	5.25
Prime rate	5.25	Discount rate	5.25	3-month bill	5.25	6-month bill	5.25	9-month bill	5.25
Prime rate	5.25	Discount rate	5.25	3-month bill	5.25	6-month bill	5.25	9-month bill	5.25
Prime rate	5.25	Discount rate	5.25	3-month bill	5.25	6-month bill	5.25	9-month bill	5.25
Prime rate	5.25	Discount rate	5.25	3-month bill	5.25	6-month bill	5.25	9-month bill	5.25
Prime rate	5.25	Discount rate	5.25	3-month bill	5.25	6-month bill	5.25	9-month bill	5.25
Prime rate	5.25	Discount rate	5.25	3-month bill	5.25	6-month bill	5.25	9-month bill	5.25
Prime rate	5.25	Discount rate	5.25	3-month bill	5.25	6-month bill	5.25	9-month bill	5.25
Prime rate	5.25	Discount rate	5.25	3-month bill	5.25	6-month bill	5.25	9-month bill	5.25
Prime rate	5.25	Discount rate	5.25	3-month bill	5.25	6-month bill	5.25	9-month bill	5.25

# Charity and Sensibility

## Money tip of the day

### Charity deadline extended

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK—Congress has just passed a law enabling you to donate money for tsunami victims through Jan. 31 and still get a break on your 2004 taxes.

The donations must be made in cash, and they must benefit tsunami victims. The extended deadline doesn't apply to other good intentions, such as charitable gifts to your alma mater, a check to your church or a bag of winter clothes for a local shelter.

Before you donate, make sure you're giving to a reputable organization. Scams tend to spring up after a disaster. Check out

the charity at Charity Navigator, a nonprofit organization that evaluates and ranks charitable organizations. The Web site ([www.charitynavigator.com](http://www.charitynavigator.com)) offers a list of its top-ranked charities providing tsunami aid.

Your total tax-deductible charitable donations, including cash and noncash items, are limited to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. Deductions are valid only for gifts to a recognized charity, meaning it has IRS approval to register as a tax-exempt organization. When you donate, remember to get a receipt from the charity for tax purposes.







## OPINION/OMBUDSMAN

## Abbas, Sharon have support, need a plan

Detroit Free Press

In a region where so much has gone so wrong for so long, it is difficult to be more than cautiously optimistic about the prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East. But the latest developments do augur well.

There is opportunity at hand. If the hatred and mistrust spawned by recent history can be overcome, leadership appears willing to forge a new future that will include an independent Palestinian state sharing the Holy Land with Israel.

President Bush has said he expects this to happen by the end of his second term. That will require the United States to be a forceful and scrupulously honest broker between the two sides. Beyond ending the violence that keeps so much of the world away from cherished religious and historic sites, a renewed involvement in a Mideast peace process offers the United States a chance to improve its international image.

In an election that appeared largely trouble-free, Palestinians on Sunday chose Mahmoud Abbas as their new leader, replacing Yasser Arafat, who died in November. Abbas ran an almost

dichotomous campaign, embracing terrorists as heroes while calling for an end to violence against Israel.

At the core, he seems to be a pragmatist, recognizing that a four-year campaign of terror against Israel has done the Palestinians far more harm than good. His wide margin of victory represents an endorsement of that view by the Palestinian people, but Abbas will have to be diligent about keeping seething terrorist elements in line.

Leaders of Hamas insist they will not try to undermine Abbas, but they have not agreed to abandon terrorism.

Meantime, the Israeli Parliament on Monday approved Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's new government, restoring the majority he needs to proceed with Israel's announced removal of military forces from the Gaza Strip, further enhancing the prospect for productive peace talks.

Both sides are sending signals that their people have had enough. The next question is where are they willing to go from here?

The path is obvious, but in the Middle East, that has rarely been the one taken.

*Both sides are sending signals that their people have had enough.*



## Campaign affected, but didn't dominate, letters page

This is a follow-up column on 'Stripes' coverage of the 2004 political campaign in the States the first one, "On balance, Stripes had successful campaign," appeared in the Dec. 9 edition. It deals with

the role of politics during the last four months of the campaign.

Two hundred eighty-two letters were charted. One hundred twenty-six of them (44.7 percent) dealt with the campaign. Letters on the presidential candidates and political philosophy totaled 96 of the 126. The remaining 30 can

be categorized by topic. The breakdown of the 96 letters dealing with candidates and the race was: pro-President Bush — 44 (45.8 percent); pro-Sen. John Kerry — 40 (31.3 percent); pro-conservative positions but didn't name Bush (6.2 percent); pro-liberal positions but didn't name Kerry — 5 (5.2 percent); neutral — 11 (11.5 percent).

The top one, as was true of letters in the U.S. newspapers that I read, was strident on both sides in most of the letters.

A pro-Bush letter: "Having made his only qualification to be president of the United States a four-month tour in Vietnam, 'war hero' John Kerry is being confronted with his own accounts of his service record."

A pro-Kerry letter: "Republican re-election committees, and their associates, are known for the nastiness of their campaigns against Democratic opponents. Their recent, and incredible, attack on John Kerry's Vietnam combat record reveals the depth of their nastiness and has taken the Republican Party to an all-time low."

A moderate perspective was reflected in the neutral letters. A soldier in Baghdad wrote: "I generally like to read your letters to the editor page; it is generally filled with

good things and supportive things, which make people feel better.... But all too often it is filled with negative things, such as passing the blame for America's problems, problems with representatives, or problems in society in general.... The harsh reality is that we are members of the greatest nation in the world and the only reason that we are that nation is because the people stood together in whatever endeavor it faced. We fought to have the freedom that we have."

A segment in Baghdad wrote: "[As I read Stripes] I note the strong agreement or disagreement with a wide range of topics. I would just ask all of us to think about how fortunate we are able to voice our disagreement in an open forum."

In the heat of such a close and sharply partisan campaign, it was not surprising for the media to be part of the crossfire. A letter complaining about too much of Fox News Channel on American Forces Network drew two supporting letters and five letters defending AFN. There was not any substance to the original complaint that I could find.

Stripes, The Associated Press and Garry Trudeau's "Doonesbury" cartoon strip (which appears on the letters page) also

drew complaints and supporters. Overall there were 15 critical letters and 11 positive letters. The complaint against Stripes was that it had shifted to the left.

One officer in Iraq based his complaint on Stripes being a "leftist rag" because it published two pictures of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's visit to coalition troops in Baghdad.

The ombudsman also was criticized. After the June 28 ombudsman column "Discovering whether Stripes stories cover all bases," a reader in Germany wrote: "Please, oh, please — spare us 'a series of columns on five topics' from Stars and Stripes' ombudsman — the one I've characterized as the apologist for Stars and Stripes. He has lately 'discovered' whether Stars and Stripes stories 'cover all bases.' As you might expect, he discovers that Stars and Stripes does 'cover all bases.' Not that I disagree with him, I just figure he doesn't know what he's talking about."

However, it is reassuring to see that Stripes readers continue to write on a wide range of topics and are candid in their views. The subjects included:

■ a letter calling for Rumsfeld to resign

and a follow-up letter defending him;

■ nearly a dozen letters on whether the use of prostitutes by military personnel should be prohibited;

■ gasoline prices and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (the number of letters on this topic is down since my last review, but there is still great interest in that issue); and

■ a debate over which NFL games AFN should televise.

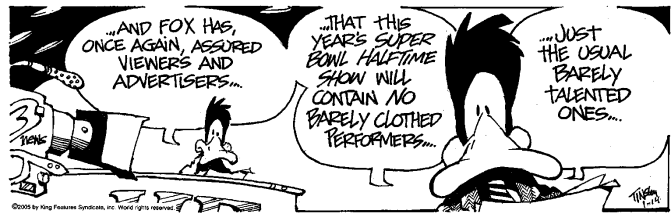
It was good news to see not a single letter about mail problems. It also was pleasing to see a large number of letters from Iraq. Of the 282 letters charted, 117 (41 percent) were from military personnel serving in Iraq. On politics, 11 of the 44 pro-Bush letters were from Iraq, three of the 30 pro-Kerry letters were from Iraq.

My conclusion: Stripes continues to carry out its mission of providing through the letter pages a great forum for the military community overseas.

Send comments to Joe Ungaro at Ombudsman, Stars and Stripes, 520 4th St., NW, Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20045-1301. Phone civilian +1(408) 354-8333; fax +1(408) 354-8595; or e-mail: ombudsman@starsandstripes.org

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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## Mine deaths settled

**AL** BROOKWOOD — A settlement has been reached in lawsuits stemming from the nation's deadliest mining accident since 1984: a series of explosions at a central Alabama mine in 2001 that killed 13 miners.

The settlement resolved all civil legal proceedings associated with the Sept. 23, 2001, explosions against mine owner Jim Walter Resources, Walter Industries and its affiliated companies, according to a Jim Walter statement.

Company officials would not comment on the settlement details. "This has been a very difficult, emotional time for all whose lives have been affected by this tragedy," said George Richmond, president and chief operating officer of Jim Walter.

## Keep off the ice

**NH** CONCORD — Snowmobilers are being warned to stay off the ice after a weekend in which three snowmobilers went through thin ice into Lake Winnepesaukee. One died.

"The ice conditions are treacherous," Fish and Game Lt. Jim Goss said. "Most of the lake is still very open water."

Even close to shore, the ice was probably only 4 to 6 inches thick, Goss said.

## Suspect kills self

**VA** RICHMOND — Virginia State Police say a Connecticut man wanted in a murder investigation in Florida took his life late Monday as troopers closed in on him.

Officers were pursuing the man on Interstate 95 near Richmond when the man pulled over and shot himself in the head, said Sgt. Kevin Barrick.

The man, whose identity was not released, was pronounced dead at VCU Medical Center.

Key West Police notified Virginia authorities that the man and his 18-year-old son were heading for Connecticut in a white Lincoln Continental, Barrick said.

About 45 minutes after getting the alert, a trooper spotted the car. Barrick said the man's son was not in the car.

## Trucker gets prison time

**CO** BRECKENRIDGE — A driver who lost control of his tractor-trailer on Interstate 70 and caused a pileup that killed a man has been sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Rosario Saenz showed little emotion as Judge David Lass sentenced him to two six-year sentences for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault for the crash that injured 10 people.

Saenz, of El Paso, Texas, will serve the sentences after completing a federal sentence for transporting drugs into Texas from Mexico. That sentence ends next year.

Prosecutors said Saenz was going at least 35 mph over the speed limit on westbound I-70 between Silverthorne and the Eisenhower Tunnel when he crashed into a minivan, then smashed into three other vehicles and plowed over the guardrail into a ravine.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Bow hunt shot down

**VA** PORTSMOUTH — After a proposal to hold a public bow hunt of deer at Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve caused a stir, the foundation that runs the 142-acre property decided to drop the idea.

Instead, after consulting with a Fairfax County expert and counting the deer, the city is considering hiring police sharpshooters to shoot the animals to manage their population, Councilwoman Elizabeth M. Pisimas said.

Last year, the City Council quashed the idea of a bow hunt after representatives of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and residents flooded city offices with complaints.

### Striking it rich

**SD** SIOUX FALLS — Some city officials earn more than the mayor and even the governor, city officials said. Lyle Johnson, city public works director, heads the city's salary list at \$137,280. Gov. Rounds' yearly salary is \$103,221, which would put him in sixth place if he worked for the city. The mayor earns \$96,173.

### Principal sues police

**MS** SPRINGFIELD — A school principal is suing four city police officers who he says dragged him through the window of his car and beat him while he was having a diabetic attack.



### Smooth sailing

A sailboat floats down the Halifax River through late afternoon fog in Daytona Beach Shores, Fla.

Douglas Greer, a primary school principal, says police accused him of being a drug user before eventually getting him medical help.

Greer is seeking an unspecified amount of money in the federal lawsuit.

The suit says the officers kicked, choked and beat Greer as he repeatedly told them he was diabetic and needed juice or sugar.

The four officers have denied the accusations. A lawyer for two of them, Kevin Coyle, said his clients gave Greer "appropriate medical assistance."

The four have been placed on administrative duty, and the police commission is investigating Greer's claims.

### Kangaroo can stay

**WI** MADISON — A kangaroo that went on a walkabout of frigid Wisconsin just might settle down in the Midwest after all.

The red-haired marsupial, now known as "Roo," was captured outside of Dodgeville after sheriff's deputies cornered the 150-pound critter in a barn during a snowstorm.

Roo remains under quarantine at the Henry Vilas Zoo, and if no one claims it, zoo officials plan to introduce it to their other kangaroos to see if they get along.

But if things don't work out, Margaret Suter said she has room at her home near Madison, where she already keeps six kangaroos and a wallaby.

"I worried for that kangaroo. It lost its caregiver," Suter said. "And if you own one of these animals, you shouldn't turn your back on it."

### Governor urges tolerance

**OR** SALEM — Gov. Ted Kulongoski urged state legislators to pass a bill outlawing discrimination against homosexuals.

In his "state of the state" address to a joint session of the Legislature as it began its 2005 session, Kulongoski said he will submit a bill that would forbid discrimination against gays in employment, housing and public accommodations.

### Hospital shooting arrests

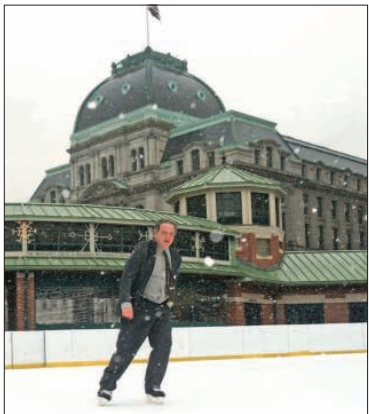
**MS** MERIDIAN — Two people were arrested Sunday in a fatal shooting at a hospital that may have been related to an earlier murder-suicide attempt, police said.

One of the suspects was arrested at Rush Foundation Hospital and the other turned himself in to police, Meridian Police Chief Benny Dubose said. Both were expected to be charged Monday.

The man fatally shot at the hospital was the son of a man who Dubose said shot himself and a woman at a Meridian home Sunday morning in an apparent murder-suicide attempt. Dubose said one of the suspects is the woman's son.

The man and woman found at the home did not suffer life-threatening injuries. The fatal shooting victim's name was not immediately released by authorities.

Police closed off the hospital for several hours after the shooting to search for the gunman.



### The cutting edge of fitness

Michael Rubin skates on the Fleet Center skating rink in front of the Providence, R.I., City Hall. Rubin is part of a growing number of adults hitting the ice for fitness and pleasure.



### Sledding fun

Mara Finley, left, and Ivy Johnson of Ludington, Mich., try to keep their balance as they sled at the water tower hill. Area schools were closed due to icy roads.



### Recycling Hawaii-style

Jenny Wells, of Kailua, Hawaii, center, gives her bags of aluminum cans to Mark Garcia, right, and Benjamin Onaga of Reynold's Recycling in Kailua. Hawaii recently became the first state in 16 years to pass a container redemption law. Hawaii has one of the most comprehensive programs in the country.





**Where's the steeple?** The steeple on Sacred Heart Church in Fried, N.D., is cut and removed from the building. The church will be moved in February from Fried to Sunset Memorial Gardens, a Jamestown, N.D., cemetery. The steeple will be erected at its original site in Fried with the three bells as a memorial for the cemetery there.



**A real cool cat** A cat bats around a chunk of snow while prowling around homes in Kallispell, Mont. According to an owner of a nearby home, the cat was abandoned when its family moved, but some neighbors adopted the cat and share in its feeding and caring.



**Brothers, one-on-one** Siblings Scott Zeiber, 16, left, and Justin Zeiber, 15, take advantage of the warm weather to play basketball in a parking lot behind their home in Phillipsburg, N.J.



**A patch of blue** Dark clouds driven by high winds break behind a windmill in Macedon, N.Y.

## Fired preacher won't go

**IN** MARION — Grace Missionary Baptist Church wants the pastor to quit preaching to the choir — and everybody else. And the church's trustees are going to court to stop him.

The Rev. Ed McDowell Jr., who served at the church for more than 13 years, was fired in December after a vote by both the trustees and members.

But McDowell, 63, continues to preach there because he says the vote was invalid. He has changed the locks at the church and has tried to fire church officials himself, court records said.

Church leaders have asked for a restraining order that would force McDowell to return church property, remove his personal belongings and block him from using church funds for his legal defense.

## Ballot pileup

**NH** DOVER — Old election ballots are taking up space in town and city halls across New England.

Laws require clerks to keep federal ballots for 22 months before destroying them, in case anyone requests a recount.

In New Hampshire, state law requires clerks to hold onto state and local election ballots for two months. In Maine, clerks must keep all ballots for the full 22 months.

Belmont's clerk is storing five large boxes full of ballots from the presidential primaries alone. Dover's city clerk is storing nearly 20,000 ballots from the November elections.

Town officials reported different plans for disposing of the ballots. Some will be shredded, others incinerated. Many ballots will go straight to the dump.

## Expanding its territory

**NM** SILVER CITY — Current boundaries of the wolf reintroduction program are causing too many wolves to be captured, removed from the wild or relocated.

That's according to a five-year review of the program by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Mexico and Arizona game and fish departments.

Government biologists propose an expansion of the area where the endangered Mexican gray wolves have been allowed to roam.

## Flag this one

**OH** CLEVELAND — Using two people and making 17 folds, a 19-year-old Boy Scout devised a way to fold the state's pennant-shaped flag into a rectangle. The solution became a new state law and earned Alex Weinstock his Eagle Scout ranking.

Ohio's state flag is the only one that doesn't have four 90-degree corners.

## Mom made her do it

**FL** MIAMI — A woman has pleaded guilty to sending her 11-year-old daughter outside their home in her nightgown to peddle heroin.

Alison Lolanda Davis, 37, was sentenced to five years in prison in a plea deal. She's been in jail since being arrested last January, unable to make \$120,000 bond, and was given credit for time served.

A prosecutor said proceedings

were pending in juvenile court to terminate Davis' parental rights. The girl, who was not charged, is in state custody along with a sister. Police said they started watching the South Miami house in October 2003 based on a tip. Officers said they saw the girl regularly selling \$10 and \$20 doses of heroin to drivers and pedestrians.

## Nun's remark backfires

**NJ** WOODBRIDGE — Charges were dismissed against Sister Catherine Iacouzze, 69, who had been accused of threatening to knock out the teeth of a St. Cecelia School student for leaving class without permission.

The 11-year-old student's father withdrew the charges after the Diocese of Metuchen fired the nun. Iacouzze's lawyer said she only made a sarcastic remark to a sassy student.

## Bible study vetoed

**MI** FRANKENMUTH — A rural school district will not offer a religious group's bible class as an elective high school course, ending a yearlong debate.

The school board in Frankenmuth, about 75 miles north of Detroit, decided with one dissenting vote to not offer the "Bible As Literature and History" class at Frankenmuth High School, following the recommendation of school Superintendent Michael Murphy.

The proposed class would have been based on materials from the National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools of Greensboro, N.C.

## Defendant takes a break

**MA** EAST BROOKFIELD — While jurors deliberated the fate of a man accused of selling a stolen gun to a pawn shop, the defendant went out for a cup of coffee.

A week later, Peter J. Leo, 32, of Worcester is still in on the run.

According to court records, Leo was being tried on charges of larceny, carrying a firearm without a license and receiving stolen property. His lawyer, Christopher Locanto, said Leo was accused of selling a pistol that did not belong to him to a pawn shop.

After listening to closing arguments, jurors left to begin their deliberations. Leo and his girlfriend also left the courtroom, saying they were going for coffee, a court officer told The Telegram & Gazette of Worcester.

The jurors returned to the courtroom a short time later to deliver their verdict, but Leo was not there to hear he had been found guilty.

## Hackers get student info

**VA** RICHMOND — Computer hackers captured the names, Social Security numbers and other information of more than 30,000 students and staff at George Mason University earlier this month, school officials said.

The university, which is in Fairfax, near Washington, D.C., discovered on Jan. 3 that intruders had hacked into a server containing the protected information, school spokesman Daniel Walsch said. He said the university notified all students and staff.

The school established an information hot line and turned the case over to campus police, he said.

Photos and stories from wire services

# Horoscope

The influence of Capricorn planets can be transforming — not in a caterpillar-turned-butterfly way but more in a rebellious-youth-turned-soldier way. There's boot camp involved. Capricorn is a tough-love energy for certain, but it works brilliantly to push people, situations and projects to the next level. Your hard work is changing you.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(January 14).** You take your life in a new directions this year, and you have more control than ever over one of them. It's liberating to know you can steer yourself with such precision — an achievement in the next seven weeks proves this to be true. Solo endeavors in February make you appreciate partners even more. A Libra or Capricorn could steal your heart.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Some activities that should fall under the category of success don't make you feel successful. Consider that success may mean something different to you than it does to others. Enjoy your creativity is key.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It seems safer to be floating in outer space than to get mixed up in certain relationship turmoil. But don't be fooled. Outer space has its dangers, too, what with the black suns, neutron storms, radiation and the like. Come back to Earth.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You make an action that has no other purpose but to make someone crazy. And to you, this falls under the category of "fun." That's the beautiful thing about you — you're a provocateur. Never change.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You'll learn enough about your fellow man to be glad for your own good fortunes — and your misfortunes, actually. Your complaints about life are so much more appealing and interesting than anyone else's.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Once again, there's proof that intellect is wasted if one isn't also people smart. A concept explored in the first

season of "The Apprentice" applies: There's little correlation between a high IQ and success in lemonade sales.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're ready to go it alone. Then, loved ones surprise you by warning to be involved in more of

your life's activities than you thought would interest them. Chalk it up to the fact that you're just cool.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Though it may seem strategic to play the freshman, eager for his upperclassman's counsel, this doesn't serve your long-term purpose. You already know more than you think you know. Trust that, and dive into your project.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Your status in the game isn't determined by a solitary winning move or a single losing move. Taking steps forward and backward is to be expected. Cheer yourself on no matter what, and others will follow suit.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You define your goals and targets, but then, when you get going, it doesn't feel like work. It feels like you're just being really silly. That's how you know you're on the right path.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Whether negative or positive, you put your attention on things for a reason. Regarding your arch nemesis, it's obvious to the rest of the world that you really care for this person, but you may still be too stubborn to admit it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You're so over being heavy and serious. Doting on someone who doesn't particularly deserve it — take your pampered pet, for instance — puts you in a lighthearted, frivolous and exceptionally attractive mood.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You actually add hours to your life when you put a seal on one of your time drains. Perhaps stop watching a certain TV show, stop taking to a long-winded person or stop going into that store where the lines are so long.

Creators Syndicate

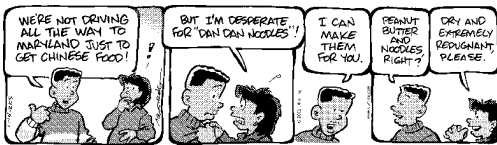
## Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



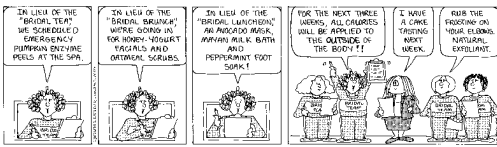
Jump Start



Zits



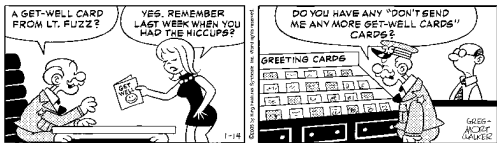
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



## Peanuts



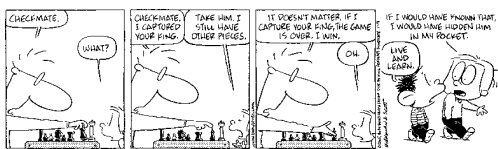
Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



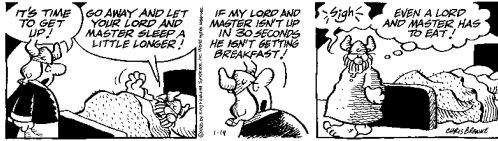
Blondie



Dilbert



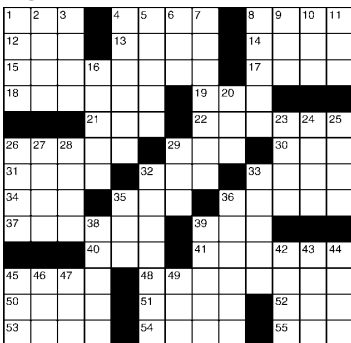
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Simile center
- 4 Dr. McGraw
- 8 Suspend
- 12 Writer Deighton
- 13 Comstock deposit
- 14 Tormie of baseball lore
- 15 Defeat
- 17 Mournful outcry
- 18 Love affairs
- 19 Throw into the mix
- 21 Comode
- 22 Graffiti artist, perhaps
- 26 Paragon
- 29 Saute
- 30 Wall climber
- 31 Tipperary locale
- 32 Spellbound
- 33 Mideastern gulf
- 34 Nipper's co.
- 35 Candy known for its dispensers
- 36 Decorate
- 37 Go poof
- 39 Will Smith role
- 40 Actress Carrere
- 41 Impale
- 45 Island entertainment
- 48 Forefront
- 50 Milky stone
- 51 Tied
- 52 Choke
- 53 Neat
- 54 The Red and the Black

## Down

- 1 Part of T.A.E.
- 2 Line of fashion
- 3 Domini lead-in
- 4 Like geese or mice
- 5 Jack
- 6 Bartenders check them
- 7 English Channel port
- 8 "The Creation" composer
- 9 Way back when
- 10 Fresh
- 11 Mousse alternative
- 16 Beehive bigwig
- 20 Rotation duration
- 23 "Thank You" singer
- 24 Say confidently
- 25 Vanessa's sister
- 26 TV mogul Griffin
- 27 Killer whale
- 28 Anthropologist
- 29 Tasseled topper
- 32 Is obedient
- 33 Farewell
- 35 Omega precursor
- 36 Straights
- 38 Frequent World Cup winner
- 39 Breathlessness?
- 42 Indian music style
- 43 Pull an all-nighter
- 44 Bold and provocative
- 45 Stolen
- 46 AP counterpart
- 47 Terhune couple
- 49 "Hail, Caesar!"

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## I-14

## CRYPTOQUIP

NJW NMXMLWG MS MWKK  
JWL ELHWP G X M X K W  
X T S B M X P S S N W, T B M M J W P

K W E M J W L J X P U H P U  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE MATTRESS ON HER GUEST BED IS SO FIRM, IT CREATES LOTS OF HARD FEELINGS.

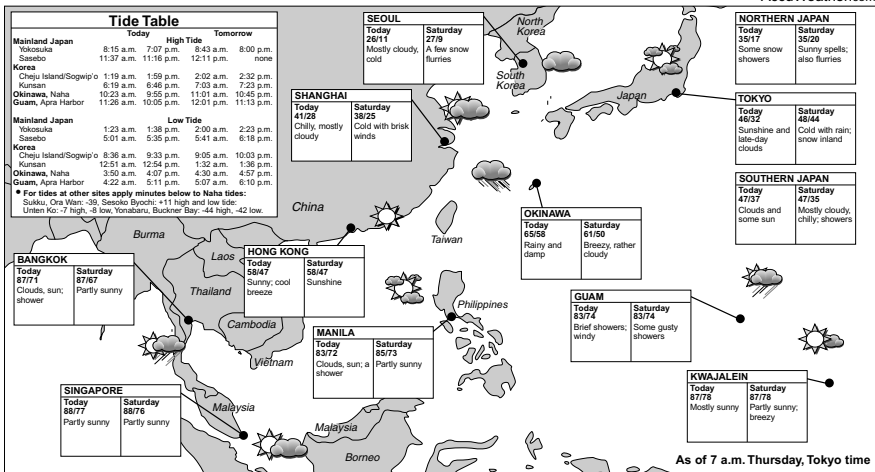
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals H





# The Pacific Forecast

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AccuWeather.com



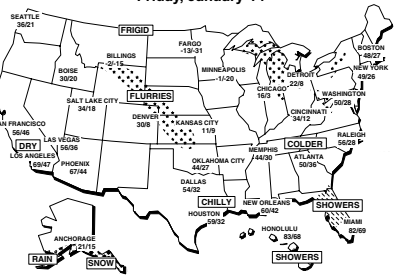
## Extended Forecasts

<b>TOKYO</b> Sunday: Partly sunny, high 48, low 34. Monday: Partly sunny, high 45, low 31.	<b>KADENA</b> Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 59, low 48. Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 61, low 50.	<b>SEOUL</b> Sunday: Partly sunny, high 30, low 16. Monday: Partly sunny, high 31, low 13.	<b>MANILA</b> Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 73. Monday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 61.	<b>HAGATNA</b> Sunday: Showers, high 85, low 74. Monday: Showers, high 85, low 74.
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## Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	46/22	Little Rock	64/46
Amarillo	53/23	Louisville	72/61
Anchorage	5/5	Milwaukee	46/31
Ashville	67/46	Nashville	69/60
Baltimore	55/46	New York	44/38
Birmingham	70/59	Omaha	31/15
Bismarck	26/8	Orlando	81/62
Boise	38/25	Philadelphia	50/44
Boston	40/34	Phoenix	63/38
Brownsville	82/58	Pittsburgh	65/67
Buffalo	49/43	Portland, ME	46/34
Burlington	36/24	Portland, ME	33/29
Charleston, SC	72/57	Salt Lake City	35/22
Charlotte	73/54	St. Louis	71/38
Chicago	64/54	San Antonio	78/49
Columbus, OH	67/57	San Diego	64/46
Dallas	30/14	San Jose	83/62
Duluth	30/4	Tampa	80/64
El Paso	56/28	Tucson	69/34
Hartford	37/25	Tulsa	69/34
Helena	20/0	Washington	59/50
Indianapolis	67/50	Wichita	45/24
Jacksonville	80/58		
Kansas City	42/26		

## Friday, January 14



## U.S. Extended Forecast

Arctic air will surge into the East on Friday, replacing Thursday's spring-like conditions. Along the leading edge of the colder air, rain and thunderstorms will soak coastal areas during the morning hours. Temperatures will drop all afternoon in places such as Boston and New York City. High pressure will settle over the northern Plains and provide sunshine but bitterly cold temperatures. Highs will struggle to reach minus 10 Friday afternoon across the Dakotas and northern Minnesota. The West Coast will have dry and sunny weather; it will be quite cold in the Northwest. Over the weekend, a storm will bring some rain, drizzle and snow to parts of the Northwest.

## Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	87/71	Kadena AB	65/58
Beijing	28/13	Kansan AB	32/22
Camp Casey	27/12	Kawajalein	87/78
Christchurch	74/58	Manila	83/72
Diego Garcia	86/77	Misawa AB	35/21
Hagatna	83/74	Osan	29/13
Hanoi	57/47	Perth	80/60
Hong Kong	58/47	Taipei	60/45
Honolulu	83/68	Pusan	40/27
		Seoul	35/17
		Sapporo	35/17
		Shanghai	41/28
		Singapore	88/77
		Sydney	96/76
		Taegu	37/22
		Tokyo	46/32

## Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	89/72	Buenos Aires	82/65
Athens	50/36	Cairo	64/40
Auckland	74/62	Cancun	82/67
Baghdad	63/35	Cape Town	78/59
Barbados	82/65	Geneva	41/37
Barcelona	54/40	London	47/32
Berlin	37/25	Madrid	41/32
Bermuda	74/64	Manila	83/62
Brussels	40/32	Moscow	31/21
		Nairobi	82/53
		New Delhi	75/47
		Oslo	31/20
		Paris	41/34
		Rio de Janeiro	77/68
		Rome	49/35
		St. Petersburg	28/18
		Stockholm	29/19
		Warsaw	31/20



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# Oklahoma State's Sutton ties mentor Iba with win No. 767

The Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — Even after a milestone victory, Eddie Sutton was preaching defense.

Henry Iba taught him well. Sutton tied his mentor for seventh in career coaching victories when No. 6 Oklahoma State beat Missouri 78-68 on Tuesday night.

"The basis of the way he taught the game was defense is a stabilizer," Sutton said of Iba. "It's a thing that on a night when you're not shooting the ball well, if your defense will hold up, maybe there will come a time when you get some momentum."

"If you don't play defense, all of a sudden you get blown away early and you're out of the game."

Joey Graham scored a season-high 27 points and John Lucas added 18 for the Cowboys (12-1, 2-0 Big 12), who held Missouri to 38 percent shooting from the field.

Sutton improved to 767-293 in his career, which included stints at Creighton, Arkansas and Kentucky before he returned to his alma mater in 1990.

"Mr. Iba would be thrilled be-

Men's  
Top 25  
roundup

cause he was a teacher, and I think the greatest credit that can be given is when someone

body that you coached or taught does well," Sutton said. In all 12 of his wins this season, Oklahoma State held its opponent under 50 percent shooting. It's a staple of Sutton's teams that can be traced back to the 1950s when he played and later coached under Iba.

The Cowboys held Missouri without a field goal for 5 minutes and broke open a close game with a late 14-4 run.

Terrence Crawford started it with two free throws and added a runout, two-handed jam. Stephen Graham followed with a reverse layup to put Oklahoma State ahead 69-61, and the orange-clad crowd could sense Sutton's landmark win.

Stephen Graham added four free throws, Lucas and Joey Graham each made jumpers and the Cowboys were suddenly ahead 77-65 and easily in control. Missouri was 0-for-8 during the

stretch and scored its only four points on free throws by Linas Kleiza.

Kleiza scored 24 points to lead the Tigers, who were 8-for-21 from three-point range. Kleiza was 13-for-13 from the foul line and fought off endless bows following an early technical foul. His tough inside play helped cause two Oklahoma State defenders to foul out.

Sutton will try to pass Iba on Saturday when the Cowboys play Iowa State. Iba was 767-338 in 41 seasons. He spent 36 years in Stillwater and won the school's only two NCAA championships in 1945 and 1946 when it was still known as Oklahoma A&M. He died in 1993.

**No. 19 Louisville 107, Southern Miss 62:** Francisco Garcia had 25 points to lead the Cardinals (13-3, 2-1 Conference USA), who led by as many as 48 points and shot 57 percent from the field.

Rashaad Carruth had a career-high 25 points for the Golden Eagles (9-6, 0-3) in the worst home loss in school history.

Southern Mississippi has lost



AP

**Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton, above, tied his mentor Henry Iba for seventh place on the career victories list Tuesday night after the Cowboys defeated Missouri 78-68 in Stillwater, Okla.**

four straight.

**No. 23 Alabama 64, Arkansas 61:** Earnest Shelton scored 18 points and Kennedy Winston had nine of his 13 in the second half to lead the Crimson Tide (13-3, 2-1 Southern Conference) to the road win. Winston made one of two free throws with 9.8 seconds left to give Alabama a three-point lead and Eric Ferguson missed an open three-pointer with 2 seconds left that could have tied the game.

Ronnie Brewer had 15 points for the Razorbacks (13-3, 1-2).

# Deacons hand Terps another lopsided loss

By JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Just in case Wake Forest forgot about its one-point loss to Maryland in last year's ACC tournament, coach Skip Prosser made his team watch the final 3 minutes of the opening-round defeat.

Then he sent the fourth-ranked Demon Deacons out to avenge the loss.

They did, behind 25 points from Justin Gray in an 81-66 victory over the Terrapins on Tuesday night.

"Before the game, I didn't see myself playing this well," Gray said.

"But the last time we played, I didn't play well and they beat us. So I knew I had to step it up."

Gray, who is playing with a strained wrist that requires him to wear a bulky brace when he is not playing, made a season-high six three-pointers while helping the Demon Deacons (14-1, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) avenge their 87-86 loss to Maryland in the first round of the ACC tournament last season.

Gray was off in that loss, scoring just 14 points.

There was no chance of that in this meeting since Gray is playing the best basketball of his career. He had 31 points in a win over Clemson on Saturday, and has 55 points and 11 three-pointers in the past two games.

"Justin has never seen a shot he doesn't take," said guard Chris

Paul, who added 14 points. "Whenever he throws it up, I think he has a 95 to 99 percent chance of it going in. And no doubt he wanted to make up for the Maryland game last year, so he was trying to make everything."

Eric Williams had 12 points and 10 rebounds, Jamaal Levy had 11 points and Vytas Danelius finished with 10 rebounds for Wake Forest.

Maryland (9-4, 1-2) played poorly in its second straight lopsided loss: The Terrapins were coming off a 36-point loss to No. 3 North Carolina on Saturday.

"We're struggling right now. We're just not playing with the intensity level needed for us to be successful," Maryland coach Gary Williams said.

"We have to improve. It's pretty obvious we have to improve."

The Terps started the game with leading scorer John Gilchrist on the bench for missing an academic assignment. Gilchrist played just 9 minutes, sitting for almost the entire second half and finishing with two points on 1-for-2 shooting.

Williams said Gilchrist was bothered by a bad back and wrist, but Gilchrist said he was surprised to get pulled in the second half.

"I definitely assumed I was going back in the game," he said.

"I was like 'Hey, I'm not the type of guy that really cares.' It didn't even matter, really. It was a coach's decision to fight back without me."

# St. Mary's holds off Air Force

The Associated Press

MORAGA, Calif. — Brett Colins scored 15 points and Saint Mary's overcame a poor shooting second half Tuesday night to hold off Air Force and win its ninth straight game, 59-58.

The Gaels (15-4), coming off a big victory over Gonzaga last Saturday, never trailed after scoring the game's first nine points.

But they almost blew a 13-point halftime lead, scoring only 19 points in the second half. Saint Mary's shot only 5-for-14 from the field and 9-for-18 from the foul line after halftime.

Jason Walberg missed two free throws with 24.5 seconds remaining, giving Air Force (10-6) a chance to win. Matt McGraw missed a jumper, but Nick Welch retained the ball for Air Force in a wild scramble for the ball. He launched a last-second air ball attempt while falling near the free-throw line as time ran out.

Saint Mary's has matched the second longest winning streak in school history and has won a school record 13 consecutive non-conference games. The victory was also Saint Mary's 12th straight at home to match a school record.

Paul Marginary added 13 points for the Gaels and E.J. Rowland scored 10.

McGraw led Air Force with 17 points. Tim Keller and Antoine Hood chipped in 12 apiece.

Jonathan Walters got the Gaels off to a quick start, scoring four points after a pair of steals before Air Force even attempted a shot. Saint Mary's had seven points before Air Force got its first shot.

Air Force held Saint Mary's to 10 points in the first half or more than five minutes to begin the second half and blocked the first two Saint Mary's shot attempts.

The Gaels went 4-0 this season against teams from the Mountain West, also beating UNLV, BYU and San Diego State.

# Don King files \$2.5 billion defamation suit over ESPN segment

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Boxing promoter Don King filed a \$2.5 billion defamation suit Wednesday, claiming he was portrayed in a false light on an ESPN "SportsCentury" segment aired last May.

The suit, filed in state court in Broward County, Fla., names ESPN, ABC Cable Networks, Advocate Communications, Disney as defendants, claiming King was falsely portrayed as "a con artist and a thug."

"This case is one of the worst examples of reckless broadcast journalism and blatant disregard for the truth," lawyer Willie Gary said.

The flamboyant promoter, who

Sports  
briefs

has represented fighters from Muhammad Ali to Mike Tyson, has spent much of his career in court.

He settled a lawsuit for \$7.5 million with former middleweight champion Terry Norris in late 2003 and still faces a \$100 million lawsuit filed against him by Tyson.

King also has beaten federal charges, including tax evasion and fraud.

**Coaches discuss changes in football pool**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — College

football coaches delayed a vote Wednesday on whether to release the ballots for their weekly poll, though some made it clear they strongly oppose the idea.

"I don't see how that could be anything but a negative," Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer said. Just over half of the nation's Division I-A coaches — 59 of 117 — attended the final day of the American Football Coaches Association's annual convention in Louisville.

AFCA executive director Grant Teaff led a forum on the ESPN/USA Today poll, which came under fire after Texas overtook California for the last at-large bid in the Bowl Championship Series.

Six coaches dropped Call below No. 6 in the final poll, prompting Pac-10 Commissioner Tom Hansen and Cal coach Jeff Tedford to ask the 61 coaches who voted to disclose their ballots. The AFCA voted down the request.

On Wednesday, Teaff handed out a three-question survey to the coaches in attendance. The survey asked if the coaches would:

■ release their ballots every week;

■ release their ballots at the end of the season only;

■ and, continue to vote if their ballots were ever publicly released.

Teaff said the rest of the coaches would receive surveys by mail. An official vote would not take

place until all the surveys had been received, Teaff said.

**Austrian skier Knauss suspended for steroid use**

WENGEN, Switzerland — Austrian skier Hans Knauss was temporarily suspended Wednesday for steroid use and could be banned for two years.

Knauss, 33, tested positive for nandrolone following his fourth-place finish in a World Cup downhill in Lake Louise, Alberta, on Nov. 27.

His backup sample also was positive, the international federation said.

Under international rules, athletes found guilty of using steroids face a two-year ban.

# Miami showing ACC it can play

BY STEVEN WINE  
The Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — The pep band blared brass tunes, the student section rode the officials and the public address announcer belted out after each basket, creating a din that reached the cheap seats.

For the Atlantic Coast Conference, it was routine stuff. But for the Miami Hurricanes, it was altogether different.

The ACC newcomers won their league home opener Sunday, beating North Carolina State 67-66. The victory was especially sweet because it came before a sellout crowd — the first in two years for the Hurricanes.

"When the fans are screaming and hollering, supporting you like that, that's what you want," said Robert Hite, Miami's leading scorer. "Hopefully, we can continue to get that throughout the season."

Hite and his teammates are accustomed to playing before mostly empty seats at their on-campus convocation center. Last season, their last in the Big East, Miami averaged just 2,545 fans at home.

Sunday's crowd of 6,067 was modest by ACC standards, but evidence that switching leagues might be good for Hurricanes hoops.

A home game against Duke on Jan. 19 also is sold out.

And the Hurricanes have defied predictions that they'll serve as a conference doormat.

Their second-half rally fell short in a loss last week at then-No. 9 Georgia Tech. But Miami overcame an early 12-point deficit to beat North Carolina State in a thriller that wasn't decided until the final shot.

"We played like a poised team with a lot of savvy down the stretch," first-year coach Frank Haith said. "You've got to play like that in and out of this in this league."

The Hurricanes are 10-3, a big improvement from last season, when they finished 16. Victories include wins over conference wins over Florida and Massachusetts.

"I think a lot of teams underestimate us," center Anthony King said. "We're two games into the ACC now, and a lot of them are trying to see what we're really made of."



Miami guard Guillermo Diaz (13) hits a three-point shot over N.C. State guard Engin Atsur. He scored 26 in the Hurricanes' victory on Sunday and 27 in a loss to Georgia Tech.

We're showing them we're not going to finish in the bottom of the ACC."

The Hurricanes have long been regarded as a sleeping giant unable to take advantage of their state's fertile prep talent pool.

There were occasional signs of life, such as when coach Leonard Hamilton led Miami to three consecutive NCAA tournament berths, including the round of 16 in 2000.



First-year Miami head coach Frank Haith has his team prepared to play "against the best basketball teams in the country."

But Miami Arena was rarely more than half full when the Hurricanes played there, and the opening of the convocation center in 2003 coincided with declining fortunes under coach Perry Clark.

The roster Clark left behind included considerable raw talent, and under Haith the Hurricanes are physical inside, feisty on defense and perimeter-oriented on offense. Guards Hite, Guillermo Diaz and Anthony Harris are averaging more than 12 points apiece.

"Those three guards are as good as any in the country," Florida coach Billy Donovan said.

Diaz, a sophomore and former member of the Puerto Rican junior national volleyball team, led the comeback against North Carolina State. He has scored 27 and 26 points in two ACC games.

"He's athletic and explosive — a great player," Wolpack guard Engin Atsur said. Diaz and the Hurricanes play at Virginia on Wednesday, then return home to face rival Florida State on Saturday. The Seminoles know all about the lower half of the ACC. They joined the league in 1992 and have finished in the second division each of the last 10 years.

"The Hurricanes are eager to do better than that."

"We're playing against the best basketball teams in the country," Haith said. "If you're a player, that's a lifelong dream."

## Leinart sounds like he's far from deciding his future

BY KEN PETERS  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Take a job and become an instant multimillionaire or stay in school and collect \$895 a month for another year.

To Matt Leinart, that's a dilemma.

"It's tough when you have so many people telling you, 'The money's there, take it.' Then your friends and other people say, 'But the money could be there in a year, what's another 10 months?'" USC's Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback said Tuesday.

The NFL deadline for college underclassmen to declare for the draft is Saturday. Leinart said he expects to announce Thursday whether he'll return for his senior season.

He said Tuesday that he's still on the fence, and may not decide until the last minute — or beyond.

Asked what he'll be doing leading up to his announcement, Leinart shook his head and said, "A lot

of praying. I'm going to go with what my gut tells me and what I feel at the time. Who knows, I might be one way when I'm going in to announce, and when I'm in there, I'll change."

After leading the Trojans to consecutive national titles, Leinart is fully aware of the risks of playing another year for them. An injury or a less successful season could drop him in the NFL Draft and cost him millions of dollars.

Two outstanding junior quarterbacks, Aaron Rodgers of California and Alex Smith of Utah, already have declared for this year's draft.

Leinart doesn't seem eager to end his college days.

"It is a business, and I don't know if I'm ready for that," he said of the NFL. "College, it's fun. We get stipend checks, that's our money, live with our friends, just hang out and have fun. College is the best time of your life, and I think the situation I'm in, it really couldn't get any better being here."

The \$895 monthly stipend for athletes is supposed to cover everything but their training table meals.

Although Leinart believes he's accomplished about everything he can as college quarterback, there's one team goal remaining that may factor in his decision. The Trojans could become the first team to win three consecutive national titles.

"Sometimes my heart's like, come back. This is just so great here, and a chance to do something no team has ever done before," he said. "I look at it as a win-win situation for me. If I leave, I'm fulfilling my dream to play in the NFL, to get a shot and try to do that."

"Or I stay in school and be here with something that's real special that's going on, the start of a dynasty. I know that's kind of a bold statement, but it's just obvious what we're doing here and what coach [Pete] Carroll is doing. I'm pretty sure coach Carroll plans on staying around to be a part of this."

Although there has been speculation that an NFL team might try to lure Carroll back to the league, he said recently that he's not interested in leaving USC.

Trojans linebacker Lofa Tuatu and punter Tom Malone also are expected to announce Thursday whether they will leave school early.

Even if Leinart and those two do turn pro, USC still should be loaded next season since most of the starters return. Waiting in the wings is quarterback John David Booty, a third-year sophomore from Louisiana who is considered a better prospect than Leinart was when he took over for 2002 Heisman winner Carson Palmer.

And the Trojans already have a verbal commitment from one of the top high school quarterbacks, Mark Sanchez from Mission Viejo, Calif.

Leinart has received advice from, among many others, Palmer and Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

After winning the Heisman in

his senior season, Palmer was taken by the Cincinnati Bengals with the No. 1 pick in the 2003 draft.

Roethlisberger, the 2004 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, left Miami (Ohio) after his junior year and was taken by the Steelers with the 11th pick last spring. He received a \$9 million bonus and earned some \$2.9 million in salary and performance money.

"It almost seems like an easy decision to people outside of USC, 'Why stay when you can be a top pick?' But it's really a lot harder than it seems to make the decision. There are so many pros and cons to both decisions," said Leinart, who began classes on Monday and could complete requirements for his sociology degree this semester.

"Whether I do, I'm going to be happy with my decision and move on from there."

He threw for 3,322 yards and 33 touchdowns this season, capping it in grand fashion with an Orange Bowl record five touchdown passes in the Trojans' 55-19 victory over Oklahoma.

# Pointed exchange of words between Jets and Steelers

BY CHUCK FINDER

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

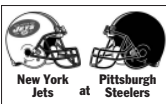
HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Silly as it might seem in the playoffs, when motivation and emotion require no additional external fueling, Steelers linebacker James Farrior and several New York Jets players, namely defensive end Shaun Ellis, exchanged relatively charged words this week over ... words.

It all goes back to some visiting postgame proclamations when the Steelers and Jets confronted one another Dec. 12 at Heinz Field.

In the aftermath of that 17-0 Steelers triumph, an array of Jets from Curtis Martin on down talked for public consumption about how they hoped to return to the same venue, to face the same team, in the postseason.

Ellis went a step further, vowing that night: "If we come back again, we'll beat them. I honestly believe that with all my might."

"This from a muscular, 6-foot-5, 285-pound fellow nicknamed 'Big Kat' with 41 career sacks, including 1 1/2 of his team-high 11



**6:30 a.m. Sunday:**  
**AFN-Pacific/Korea, Atlantic,**  
**AFN radio Okinawa, Korea**

Game time is Japan and Korea Standard. Guam is one hour ahead. Singapore and Hong Kong are one hour behind.

this season in last month's game at Heinz Field.

"Yeah, we noticed it," Farrior, a Jets' linebacker between 1997-2001, said on a telephone conference call Tuesday. "We were surprised he said that. ... We just looked at it and laughed at it, and they got what they wished for" — a rematch.

To which Ellis responded barely two seconds later, when informed by media members about Farrior's comments: "The statement that I made, I'm a man, I put my name on it, I'll stick by it."

Then again, Ellis added, what would folks expect from a professional, competitive athlete after a loss?

"I'm not going to say they're going to beat us the next time," he continued. "I'd be a damn fool to say that. I still believe that (the Jets will win). It was just the way I truly felt in my heart. Here it is, we got another chance against them."

To be sure, the Jets still feel an extra sting from that defeat. They were whistled for 12 penalties in the first half, a season high for a team that committed the fewest in the AFC this season and the least amount in the NFL combined over the past four years under coach Herman Edwards.

League officials, in their postgame report the following week, admitted that Walt Anderson's crew muffed a few calls — two of which came in one second-quarter series, wiping out 59 yards in Jets gains, and another that nullified a James Ward fumble.

Worse for this bunch, they held rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to the worst day of his



Despite seeing his team outgained 296-262, Steelers coach Bill Cowher, above, saw his team beat the Jets 17-6 on Dec. 12 in Pittsburgh.

14-game NFL winning streak — he compiled a 1.3 passer rating in the first half and tossed two interceptions — and lost to the Steelers on a day when the winning touchdown was scored on a pass from Jerome Bettis.

The Jets outgained the Steelers 296-262, but quarterback Chad Pennington threw a pass that Farrior intercepted at the Steelers' 26 and a Troy Polamalu interception deep in New York territory led to a Jeff Reed field goal.

In short, the Jets remember it being a 3-3 game until the fourth quarter, whereupon the Steelers scored on Bettis' halfback pass to Jerome Tuman and his touch-

down rumble around right end nine minutes later.

The fact that the loss was the first of three in the Jets' final four regular-season games just serves to compound their agony.

"We didn't play physical enough and we didn't play smart," linebacker Eric Barton said of the Jets' defense, which allowed Roethlisberger to rally from that horrendous first half to complete four of his final five strong, for 99 yards. "Penalties and coverages, we messed up a couple of times."

"We felt like a lot of things were against us, we played out of character, we got a lot of penalties," Ellis said.

## N.Y. clears coucussed Chrebet to return

BY ANDREA ADELSON

The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Wayne Chrebet wanted so badly to play against the San Diego Chargers last week.

Even though he sustained a mild concussion in the regular-season finale against St. Louis, Chrebet prepared as though he would play.

He got on the airplane to California thinking he would play. Then came the bad news: Jets coach Herman Edwards decided against it.

Chrebet begged Edwards to play, but to no avail. He would sit out because Santana Moss had a tweaked hamstring, and Edwards did not want to risk losing both his receivers in the same game.

"It was a long talk with Wayne," Edwards said. "It was hard for me to do that. But at that point in time I said, 'Just hang in there. You're going to get an opportunity. We're going to play next week. So you just get well and next week we'll be able to play.'"

Chrebet will play Saturday against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Sitting out the wild-card game was tough on the 10-year veteran, who decided to return to the team this year despite a history of concussion.

"It's tough," Chrebet said. "You play and go through all the offseason stuff to get to the playoffs. I



Jets receiver Wayne Chrebet sat out last week's playoff game after suffering a head injury during the regular-season finale in St. Louis.

took the plane ride, I was in game mode. I hear that the day before, it was tough to swallow. But he's the head coach, he makes the calls, and whatever he wants I'll do."

Chrebet has a tough decision when the season ends. He might ponder retirement after the latest concussion. Last season, he missed the final eight games with postconcussion syndrome.

He also might not be with the Jets, who need to decide whether to keep him or cut him in March, when he is set to make a \$400,000 roster bonus. Chrebet is scheduled to make \$1 million in 2005, a lot of money for a role player.

Chrebet said the latest concussion has no bearing on what he decides.

"I'm not thinking about it right now," he said. "I'm just happy I get a chance to play again this week. I'm going to decide on other things once the season is over. Just want to have full focus on the task at hand and that's getting a win at Pittsburgh."

Chrebet had 31 catches for 397 yards and one TD this season.

## Subtracting Owens from equation multiplies Minnesota's guesswork

BY DON SEEHLER

St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — For the second time in as many weeks, the Vikings are preparing to face a play-off opponent they played during the regular season.

Unlike last Sunday's NFC wild-card game against the Green Bay Packers, though, it's uncertain just how much of an advantage — if any — that experience might be.

When the Vikings played at Philadelphia on Sept. 20, star wide receiver Terrell Owens was an important part of Minnesota's defensive game planning, and he had a big hand in the Eagles' 27-16 victory.

With Owens sidelined with an ankle injury, the Eagles' offense is something of a mystery heading into Sunday's playoff game.

"We're trying to, as coaches, figure out what type of personality they're going to try to put on the field offensively without Owens," Vikings coach Mike Tice said. "Of course, they have the great playmaker at running back (Brian Westbrook) and a great tight end (Chad Lewis)."

"We've got to do the best job we can as coaches to put a plan together that takes away that personality they're going to have Sunday, and we don't know exactly what that's going to be."

In the two games since Owens was injured, the Eagles haven't exactly tipped their hand.

Quarterback Donovan McNabb played just one series in a 20-7 Week 16 loss to the St. Louis



**3 a.m. Monday:**  
**AFN-Pacific/Korea, Atlantic,**  
**AFN radio Okinawa, Korea**

Game time is Japan and Korea Standard. Guam is one hour ahead. Singapore and Hong Kong are one hour behind.

Rams and not at all in the season-ending 38-10 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals.

Already assured of home-field advantage for the playoffs, the Eagles rested several other starters. Vikings defensive coordinator Ted Cottrell said he expects to see basically the same Philadelphia offense on Sunday, even with Owens out.

"They still run their offense," Cottrell said. "They're not going to change. When they had Terrell, they put him in the (same) position where the receivers were last year. They've got a variety of formations and plays anyway. They plug the players in to run the offense."

That might be true, but the Eagles can't simply plug in another Owens, who caught a team-high 77 passes for 1,200 yards and 14 touchdowns in 14 games.

Philadelphia's second-leading wide receiver, Todd Pinkston, finished the regular season with 36 receptions for 676 yards and one touchdown, so Owens' absence figures to be huge.

"He opens it up for the other receivers, gives Westbrook more room to work," Vikings cornerback Antoine Winfield said. "Some teams double-team him. They can spread the field with him. I don't know what they're going to do without him."

Owens caught four passes for 79 yards, including a disputed 45-yard touchdown, during the regular-season victory over the Vikings. But it's not as if the Eagles have lost their only offensive weapon.

They still have McNabb, who passed for 245 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another against the Vikings.

"He makes that offense go," Cottrell said of McNabb. "He's critical to them. He can still scramble well with the ball, he's strong, and I think he's making a lot better decisions. His decision-making has improved over the years with his experience. It's not easy being a quarterback up in Philadelphia, either. Those are my hometown fans, and they're kind of tough on you if you're not performing, especially at the quarterback position. This guy's been doing a great job."

Throw in Westbrook, the team's leading rusher and second-leading receiver, and tight ends Lewis and L.J. Smith, and Cottrell said his defense has its work cut out for it.

"They have enough weapons," Cottrell said. "It's a great plus for them, but they've been in the (conference) championship three years in a row, so they've got the weapons to get there."

# Holmgren says he's staying in Seattle

The Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Mike Holmgren isn't going anywhere.

Seattle's coach held a wrap-up news conference Tuesday during which he rejected speculation he might be fired or leave after a frustrating 9-7 regular season. The Seahawks lost last weekend's wild-card home game to St. Louis.

"I haven't been told I'm not coming back," Holmgren said.

There's also been talk in the Bay Area, where Holmgren grew up, that he might consider coaching in the San Francisco 49ers.

"I don't want to coach anywhere else," Holmgren said. "I want to get it done here. I love our team. I love our guys. But to say it didn't cross my mind to ride off into the sunset I'd be lying."

In 19 NFL seasons, Holmgren couldn't remember such an unusual season. After a 30 record that seemed to validate preseason forecasts of a Super Bowl run, an erratic turn made Holmgren question himself.

"I always said in close games I felt I could make a difference," Holmgren said. "I've had too many close games this year where I didn't make a difference. I have to start with myself."

The Seahawks have 16 players eligible for unrestricted free agency, including running back Shaun Alexander, quarterback Matt Hasselbeck and tackle Walter Jones.

## Niners add Nolan, Schwartz to interview list

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers added two NFL assistant coaches to their list of candidates for their vacant head coaching position Tuesday.

San Francisco owner John York received permission to interview Baltimore defensive coordinator Mike Nolan and Tennessee defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz.

York, who interviewed New England's Romeo Crennel last week, met with Tennessee offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger on Tuesday. He will interview New York Giants defensive coordinator Tim Lewis on Wednesday.

## Steelers might not reveal RB starter until Saturday

PITTSBURGH — Running backs Jerome Bettis and Duce Staley split time during practice Tuesday, and Steelers coach Bill Cowher might not announce a starter until Saturday.

"They're both going to play," Cowher said after the Steelers resumed practicing following a three-day layoff prior to their divisional playoff game against the New York Jets. "We'll see how we are on game day."

Bettis (941 yards) and Staley (80 yards) split time during the regular season, but only after Staley injured a hamstring Oct. 31 against New England.

Seattle Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren said Tuesday, "I don't want to coach anywhere else. I want to get it done here."

Bettis, used mostly as a short-yardage back until then, stepped in with six 100-yard games in as many starts before sitting out Jan. 2 at Buffalo with a sprained ankle.

Staley had four 100-yard games in a five-game stretch before he was injured. He appeared to have less acceleration and power after returning, but Cowher was happy Tuesday.

"He looked good today," the coach said.

## Pennington misses practice with stomach virus

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Jets quarterback Chad Pennington missed practice Wednesday with a stomach virus, but coach Herman Edwards said his franchise player will be ready for Saturday's playoff game at Pittsburgh.

Pennington called Edwards on Tuesday night to say he was sick.

He came to Jets headquarters Wednesday and tried to practice, but Edwards sent him inside to rest. To make matters worse for New York, backup Quincy Carter went home to Georgia to be with his ailing mother, so No. 3 quarterback Brooks Bollinger took the snaps with the first-team offense during practice.

Edwards said he did not know whether Pennington would be able to practice Thursday, and does not know when Carter would return. That means Bollinger would be the backup for Saturday's game.

## Vikings WR Moss sits out practice, listed as probable

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Randy Moss didn't practice with the Minnesota Vikings on Wednesday because of a sprained right ankle, but he's listed as probable for Sunday's playoff game at Philadelphia.

Also held out of practice were strong safety Corey Chavous, who is doubtful with a broken left elbow, and running back Moe Williams, doubtful with a sprained right ankle.

## Pats DE Seymour questionable

FOXBORO, Mass. — Defensive end Richard Seymour was listed Wednesday by the New England Patriots as questionable for Sunday's playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts.

Seymour, a three-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman, missed at least part of practice with a knee injury that kept him out of the final regular-season game. He is a key player in the Patriots' defense to stop Peyton Manning, especially with their top two cornerbacks, Ty Law and Tyrone Poole, on injured reserve.

# From forlorn to formidable

## Falcons' front four keys one-year turnaround from one of the NFL's worst defenses to one of the best

By PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — They've known what it means to be a laughingstock, the supposed first line of defense for a team that gave up yards at an alarming rate.

No one's laughing anymore. Bolstered by a new scheme, a key free-agent signing and better depth, the Atlanta Falcons' front four is now recognized as one of the best in the NFL.

The numbers back it up. The Falcons led the league with 48 sacks and ranked eighth against the run — a stunning turnaround for a team that surrendered a franchise-worst 6,108 yards last season.

It confirms to these guys that, "Yeah, you are good," said defensive line coach Bill Johnson, who actually got a little choked up while pondering how much things have changed. "They've worked so hard, come through so much, going back to when everybody thought they were the worst in the league."

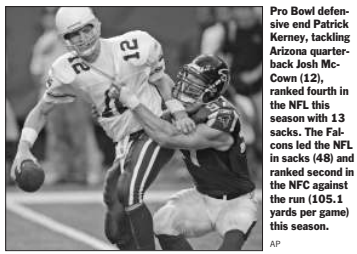
Patrick Kerney gets much of the notoriety, a Pro Bowl end who ranked fourth in the league with 13 sacks. But he's quick to point out that it's hardly a one-man show in the trenches.

Just take a look at tackle Rod Coleman, signed as a free agent after five seasons with the Oakland Raiders. Even though he missed three games recovering from injuries sustained in a car wreck, Coleman managed 11½ sacks, forced a team-high five fumbles and broke up six passes.

Most telling, the Falcons have only one sack in the games Coleman missed. He's a disruptive force in the middle of the line, often tying up several blockers and freeing up plenty of space for his teammates.

"The best thing about Rod is he came here from a different system, a different philosophy, and he bought in to what we want to do," Kerney said. "You've got to have four guys pushing the pocket together, not four guys rushing individually."

Led by Michael Vick and a resurgent defense, the Falcons won their third division title in franchise history. After getting a



first-round bye, they are hosting the St. Louis Rams in an NFC playoff game Saturday night.

Kerney and Coleman are joined along the front four by end Brady Smith, who has six sacks, three forced fumbles, two recovered fumbles, and tackle Ed Jasper. His numbers are more modest because he missed the last four games of the regular season with a wrist injury.

The changes began shortly

more depth was required. Kerney figures he took every defensive snap in at least six games a year ago, and it was about the same in 2002, as well.

"It builds up when you don't have a chance to recover," Kerney said. "It's like the energy bar on the video game. I could never get it back to full strength."

It's not that way anymore. Fifth-round pick Chad Lavalais has bolstered things on the inside. After Jasper was hurt, the rookie stepped in without any drop-off.

Jasper has recovered in time for the playoffs, but Lavalais — along with Antwan Lane — will be ready to provide a breather. Ditto on the outside, where former starter Travis Hall is standing by when Kerney or Smith needs a break.

Johnson, in his fourth season as the Falcons' defensive line coach, points to another factor that contributed to the improvement.

"It's not something that shows up in the statistics, but the coach sees it every day," Johnson said. "The guys really seem to care about each other, whether they're practicing, sitting in a meeting room or getting together away from the field. What makes it more amazing is their disparate backgrounds and backgrounds."

Kerney is a notorious free spirit from suburban Philadelphia.

Jasper is a laid-back country boy from Texas. Hall was raised in Alaska, which undoubtedly accounts for his reserved demeanor. Smith grew up near Chicago. Lavalais hails from rural Louisiana.

## St. Louis Rams at Atlanta Falcons

10 a.m. Sunday:  
AFN-Pacific/Korea, Atlantic,  
AFN radio Okinawa, Atlanta

Game time is Japan and Korea Standard. Games is one hour ahead; Singapore and Hong Kong are one hour behind.

after Jim Mora was hired as coach and brought in Ed Donatelli, formerly of Green Bay, as defensive coordinator.

The new staff quickly switched to the 4-3 scheme, which has definitely been a better fit for Kerney than the previous three-man front. He can rely on his speed and quickness to rush the quarterback from the outside, instead of matching up head-on with much bigger linemen.

The coaches also knew that

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Indianapolis running back Edgerrin James, left, fends off Denver linebacker D.J. Williams during the Colts' 49-24 victory on Sunday. The Patriots have beaten the Colts three times in the past two seasons.

## These Colts have horsepower

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning knows his NFL history. He sees his name among the great quarterbacks who have won league MVP honors: Joe Montana, John Unitas, John Elway, Steve Young, Terry Bradshaw.

He also knows something is missing.

Is this the year Manning gets that elusive championship ring to accompany his second straight Most Valuable Player award? Could be.

In none of Manning's previous six seasons with the Colts has his team been so well-positioned to challenge for a title. The offense is performing at an almost unfathomable pace, thanks to Manning's precise passing and the superb skills of receivers Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne and Brandon Stokley, plus running back Edgerrin James and tight ends Marcus Pollard and Dallas Clark.

The defense, while hardly in the class of the other three remaining AFC contenders, has improved. It has enjoyed the advantage of playing from ahead because of how prolific Manning and company have been. It has two playmakers in Dwight Freeney and Rob Morris, and a terrific coach in Tony Dungy.

"The Colts also are not a 'dome team,'" as Dungy readily points out. "We don't subscribe to the indoor-outdoor theory." Dungy says. "We have a better record on the road than at home since I've been here."

Actually, it's the same; 17-7 at home and away.

Where they have a terrible record, however, is at New England. And that's where the Colts (13-4) play Sunday, versus the de-

fending champion Patriots (14-2), a club that often befuddles Manning with intricate defensive alignments and shifts.

Forget the weather, which hasn't necessarily been a problem for the Colts. Their failures against the Patriots, including a defeat at the RCA Dome in the 2003 season, are due to Bill Belichick's schemes that have thrown off the always-prepared Manning.

But this edition of the Colts seems to possess a different mind-set than the team that

unprecedented level, and he has more weapons to choose from than ever. Wayne has become a premier receiver, not just a complement to the brilliant Harrison. Stokley is a perfect slot man. Both tight ends are especially dangerous near the end zone. The offensive line gives Manning enough time to go through his progressions — and nobody reads progressions better.

"I've never left the field saying I could have done more to be ready," Manning says. "I don't think I do more than any quarterback should; I give it the attention it deserves."

■ The officials' stronger emphasis on not allowing receivers to be mugged downfield, a direct result of last year's AFC title game, favors the Colts.

■ The Colts aren't intimidated by the Patriots.

"I don't think anybody in our building would say we can't go up there and beat them," Dungy says. "Part of what we have to do is realize it is just football, even if it's the playoffs and New England. We make the big plays, we'll win."

Few teams have made more big plays this season than the Colts.

*The Patriots are hurting most in the secondary, a bad situation when facing Indianapolis.*

claimed it could handle the Patriots in recent meetings, then failed. "Your confidence has to be that you're playing well and we're playing more consistently at the end of the year than last year," Dungy says.

"At New England," said Manning, referring to last January's AFC championship game, "I played like an absolute dot. There's no question about it."

"We have to play great up there against a great team."

So are they capable of doing so, of eliminating a team that has won all six of its playoff games with Belichick as coach and Tom Brady as quarterback?

Yes. Here's why:

■ The Patriots, even with a week off, are not completely healed.

■ They are hurting most in the secondary, a bad situation when facing Indianapolis. And their best lineman, Richard Seymour, has an injured knee.

■ Manning is operating on an



Reggie Wayne, right and Brandon Stokley combined for 254 receiving yards and two touchdowns in the Colts' 49-24 victory over Denver last Sunday.

## History will watch Manning, Patriots

BY TOM E. CURRAN  
The Providence Journal

FOXBORO, Mass. — History is straightening its tie this week and smoothing its hair in the mirror. It has an appointment Sunday in Foxboro.

History doesn't actually attend many events. Most aren't worthy of its notice. But those that will be relevant to History 5, 10, 20 years down the road get special attention. History will make sure the participants will be forever recalled as they were on that particular day even if — many years forward — those participants are gray, stooped or dead.

History shows up when a great change is going to take place so that it may be recorded. History shows up when indelible moments occur.

So history is reaching up into its closet and taking down its worn gloves and furry hat. It's going to the garage to get its biba-chi.

History will be tailgating outside Gillette Stadium early Sunday afternoon before the playoff game between the New England Patriots and Indianapolis Colts. History then will go inside and find a seat because it will want to record this event.

The Patriots are changing. Drastically. Offensive coordinator Charlie Weiss is leaving at the end of the year. Defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel may go, too. The best cornerback they ever had, Ty Law, may not be back next season, and Troy Brown — the player who has embodied what this franchise has been about since Bill Belichick came to town — is near the end, too. Vice president of player personnel Scott Pioli is going to be wooed by every team in the league that wants to get better fast.

The run of these Patriots is nearing its end. With Belichick, Tom Brady, Teddy Bruschi and Richard Seymour still on board, the strategy will be easily recognizable and they may well continue to be a league power. But Sunday's game affords this team — as it is presently constituted — a chance to make a monumental statement regarding what it has been about.

It can be the perfect bookend to the 2001 Super Bowl victory over the Rams. History remembers that day when the Patriots were introduced not just to football fans, but the entire world as a team, complete with all the selflessness, grit and passion that teams are supposed to have. They have everyone's attention again, only this time they will be trying to add to a legacy that began with that Super Bowl triumph.

There are many who already believe the Patriots' run ends Sunday.

### Commentary

That the shape they are in will make it impossible to stop Indianapolis and continue their reign as the best team in football.

History already remembers that this is the team that drew up the blueprints for long-term domination in a league that was supposed to be immune to it. The Patriots know that one of the main parts of the plan was to make sure that no one player is bigger than the team.

To win Sunday, the team will have to stop a one-player operation.

Of course, the Colts are much more than that, and the one player — Peyton Manning — would say himself that he isn't the whole show.

But History won't have time for such details. History will remember Peyton Manning and the Colts. Not the Colts, quarterbacked by Peyton Manning.

Manning is the hood ornament for the league. He's the easy answer to the questions of who is the best player, the best quarterback, the guy who gets the endorsements and the commercials, the magazine covers and the individual accolades.

He is said by some to be the individual best ever.

But it will be hard for History to see Manning in the light he's supposed to be seen in if he doesn't win a title. And if Manning doesn't do it by stepping over the Patriots, then that's no good, either. Until then, the hood ornament won't sit quite

right on the hood.

To continue the ascendancy he was baptized into, Manning has to beat New England. They are the albatross tied round his neck, the team against which he turns to piddling.

To lose Sunday, when the Patriots are battered and expected to lose ... that would be something that History could not ignore.

Manning's marching orders are to win now against a Patriots team that is ripe for the picking. Win, or run the risk of having History tack that to his back for the rest of his career. Because if New England wins Sunday, Peyton Manning will have lost. Not the Colts.

Manning. History's funny like that.

This is not the most important game this weekend or the most important game of the playoffs. This game offers considerable historic impact.

Whether it winds up 20-17 in double overtime or 42-14, the winner — and the loser — Sunday will be remembered for many years.

By History.

**Indianapolis at New England  
Colts at Patriots**

**6:30 a.m. Monday  
AFN-Pacific/Korea, Atlantic,  
AFN radio Okinawa, Korea**

Game time is Japan and Korea Standard.  
Games are one hour ahead; Singapore and  
Hong Kong are one hour behind.



# Drawn-out baseball deals finally finished

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Randy Johnson, Carlos Beltran, Shawn Green, Derek Lowe, Javier Vazquez and Juan Gonzalez finally got to their new teams following weeks of negotiations.

Dioner Navarro, a 28-year-old catcher with seven major league at-bats, even got traded twice Tuesday.

On a day when the Mets and Yankees combined for a news conference doubleheader, baseball dominated the New York sports scene, even with the Jets getting ready for their second-round matchup with Pittsburgh in the NFL playoffs.

In the morning at Shea Stadium, the Mets announced their \$119 million, seven-year contract with center fielder Carlos Beltran, the 10th deal in baseball history worth \$100 million or more. The new-look Mets have added three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez and might try to sign Carlos Delgado.

"I call it the new Mets because this organization is going to a different direction, the right direction, the direction of winning," Beltran said.

Three hours later, the Yankees introduced Johnson, a five-time Cy Young Award winner, after acquiring him from Arizona for Vazquez, Navarro, pitcher Brad Halsey and \$9 million. The Big Unit, who got a \$32 million, two-year contract extension through 2007, quickly apologized for getting into a sidewalk confrontation with a television cameraman en route to his physical the previous day.

"It was unprofessional and, obviously, I feel very foolish today, at such a great moment in my career, that I would have to sit before all of you, or stand before all of you, and apologize for my actions," he said.

Arizona then dealt Navarro and right-handers William Juarez, Danny Muegge and Beltran Perez to Los Angeles for Green and \$10 million.



**Outfielder Shawn Green, who has a .314 batting average and .629 slugging percentage at Bank One Ballpark, signed a \$32 million, three-year contract with the Arizona Diamondbacks.**

"We had said for some time if we were to make a decision to trade Randy Johnson, which was a difficult decision to be sure, that we wanted to obtain good starting pitching and another front-line player as a minimum," Diamondbacks managing partner Ken Kendrick said. "We think we achieved our goal with Javy and with Shawn."

Green got a \$32 million, three-year contract from the Diamondbacks. He has a .314 average and .629 slugging percentage at Bank One Ballpark with 14 homers and 40 RBIs in 175 at-bats, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"I couldn't be happier with the change for me," Green said.

"The team that I was really hoping would work for me is Arizona. It's my favorite park to play in and it's my favorite city to come to. It was a perfect fit for me and for my family."

The Diamondbacks also signed

left-hander Shawn Estes to a \$2.5 million, one-year contract and traded Shea Hillenbrand to the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday for pitcher Adam Peterson in a payroll-cutting move.

Estes turned down a two-year offer for more money from the Washington Nationals. He and his wife Heather — and their sons 16-month-old Jackson and 3-month-old Cody — live in Paradise Valley, about a 20-minute drive to Bank One Ballpark.

Estes, 31, was 15-8 with a 5.84 ERA in a career-high 34 starts for the Colorado Rockies last season. Despite pitching in hitter-friendly Coors Field, Estes' victories were second to Johnson among left-handers in the National League.

It was a comeback season for Estes, who found himself with little job offers after going 8-11 with a 5.74 ERA with the Chicago Cubs in 2003.

Most significantly to the Diamondbacks front office, Estes was 8-1 with a 3.73 ERA in 16 starts against N.L. West opponents. He led the National League in inducing double plays and was second in the N.L. in pickoffs last year.

After shedding Green, Los Angeles finalized its \$36 million, four-year contract with right-hander Derek Lowe, the winner for Boston in the final game of all three of its postseason series as the Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 years.

Derek is a front-line starter with a history of success in the regular season and in the postseason, Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said.

Gonzalez, a two-time AL MVP with Texas, finalized a minor league contract with Cleveland. The 35-year-old outfielder has 434 homers but played in just 33 games last year with Kansas City, batting .276 with five homers and 17 RBIs.

If Gonzalez makes the Indians' 25-man roster, he would get a \$600,000, one-year contract and

have a chance to earn another \$1.65 million in bonus money on plate appearances and \$300,000 based on time on the active roster.

"Should he come into camp healthy and in good form, I fully expect him to make our club and be a starting outfielder," Indians general manager Mark Shapiro said.

Toronto agreed to a \$5.2 million, two-year contract with left-hander Scott Schoeneweis, let go by the Chicago White Sox last month. Philadelphia agreed to a \$500,000, one-year contract with right-hander Terry Adams and Baltimore agreed to a minor league deal with right-hander James Baldwin.

Among players eligible for salary arbitration, Houston agreed to a \$1.3 million, one-year deal with infielder Mike Lamb. And in addition to the Beltran deal, the Astros agreed to a \$3.7 million, five-year contract with right-hander Philip Humber, the third overall pick in last June's amateur draft.

Elsewhere, the baseballer Tony Batista's \$15 million, two-year contract was completed by Fukuoka in Japan's Pacific League. The team also agreed to a two-year deal with infielder Jolbert Cabrera.

Reliever Dan Miceli agreed to a one-year deal with the Yomiuri Giants of the Central League worth about \$2 million.

On Wednesday:

■ Catcher Paul Du Luca agreed to a \$18 million, three-year contract with the Florida Marlins, who acquired the two-time All-Star catcher in a trade with the Los Angeles Dodgers last summer.

"When Jeffrey Loria said publicly not too long after we acquired Paul that he was not a summer rental, he meant it," said Marlins General Manager Larry Beinfest, referring to the team's owner.

Du Luca, a fan favorite in Los Angeles, was shocked and teary-eyed when the trade was an-

nounced last July. But he soon became enamored with catching the Marlins' crop of young, talented starters — Josh Beckett, A.J. Burnett, Dontrelle Willis — and decided Florida was the right place for him. They are joined by veterans Al Leiter — who threw a no-hitter in 1996 — and Ismael Valdez.

"It is a lot of fun catching these guys," Le Du Luca said, who has salary arbitration by accepting the deal. "You have four guys who can throw a no-hitter at any time. That makes it interesting."

Le Du Luca, who turns 32 on April 12, hit .258 with three home runs and 31 RBIs in 53 games last season with the Marlins. He's a career .285 hitter, with 60 home runs, 306 RBIs and 133 doubles in 640 games.

■ Infielders Wilton Guerrero and Abraham Nunez were among eight players who agreed to minor league contracts with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Pitchers Chris Gissel, Bob Fife and Toby Bordall also agreed to deals along with first baseman Mike Bell, and outfielders Raul Gonzalez and Jason Beaton.

Guerrero, 30, hit .231 in 26 at-bats with Kansas City last season and .326 at Triple-A Omaha. He is a career .282 hitter in 672 Major League games and is the brother of American League MVP Vladimir Guerrero.

Nunez, 28, hit .245 in 97 games with Pittsburgh last year.

Bell, 30, is the son of former player and manager Buddy Bell and brother of David Bell of the Pittsburgh Pirates and is 35 homers at Triple-A Charlotte last season.

■ The Oakland Athletics agreed to a one-year contract with pitcher J. J. Vazquez after the right-hander passed a physical. The 36-year-old has played 11 seasons with the Hanshin Tigers in Japan. He went 6-9 with a 3.02 ERA in 19 games last season and had an 84-106 record and 3.57 ERA with the team.

He could compete for a spot in Oakland's starting rotation.



**Suns forward Amare Stoudemire, left, shoots over Heat forward Udonis Haslem, right, in the fourth quarter. Stoudemire scored 34 points.**

## Suns: Stoudemire a young Shaq

SUNS, FROM BACK PAGE

"We've obviously struggled with the top teams in the West, and that's something that I think should stick in our mind every day," Van Gundy said. "And any time we have any tendency to get complacent, that should be what pushes us and drives us to improve over the last 14 weeks of the season. We have to get a lot better to get to where we want to go. You can't argue the facts on that."

Stoudemire relished his matchup with O'Neal, his boyhood idol.

"I did a little bit of everything," Stoudemire said. "I tried to mix it up on him, and use my jumper. I figured he was going to back up a little bit and let me shoot, and when he came out, I took it to the rack and tried to get fouls or make plays for my teammates."

O'Neal has always liked Stoudemire.

"Tonight it was the old me versus the young me," O'Neal said. "I wanted to make him shoot the jumper, and he shot it, and he shot it real well. He's a great kid."

Despite Miami's attempts to slow the tempo, the Suns raced to their highest-scoring first quarter of the season, taking a 40-25 lead. Miami never was closer than 10 again.

"We talked about it. Every first quarter, they

jump on people," Van Gundy said. "We got ourselves in a big hole, and we tried a couple times to fight back, but we just could never get enough stops to even make it game over."

"I'm disappointed that we didn't come out and do the things that we talked about," Heat forward Udonis Haslem said.

Stoudemire made all four of his first-quarter shots except one from beyond 15 feet. He finished with the O'Neal scored 17 in the first half on 8-for-9 shooting, five of them dunks. O'Neal and Stoudemire are first and second in the NBA in dunks.

The Heat were down 71-61 on Wade's basket early in the second half, but the Suns went on one of their trademark runs, this one 18-4, to go up 89-65 on Stoudemire's soaring dunk with 6:40 left in the third.

In the fourth quarter, Stoudemire was knocked down by O'Neal, but flipped the ball in sealed arms as he fell. He made the free throw for a three-point put to put Phoenix up 105-85 with 9:46 left.

The Heat were down 71-61 on Wade's basket early in the second half, but the Suns went on one of their trademark runs, this one 18-4, to go up 89-65 on Stoudemire's soaring dunk with 6:40 left in the third.

## SPORTS

## Suns in different league



Nets get bad news on Jefferson, then play poorly in loss to Pistons, Page 30



Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire, right, slaps the ball out of the grasp of Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal, left, in the third quarter Tuesday in Phoenix. Both players lead their respective teams with 34 points as the Suns defeated the Heat 122-107.

## West's best team coasts past East-leading Heat

BY BOB BAUM  
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The ever-energized Phoenix Suns made the best in the East look slow and overmatched — just like they've done to almost every opponent so far in a remarkable season.

Amare Stoudemire scored 34 points, and the Suns won their seventh straight 122-107 over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night in what turned out to be a mismatch of the teams with the best records in the West and East.

All five Suns starters hit double figures — in the first half — and Phoenix improved to 31-4, the sixth-best start for a team with four losses in league history. Four of the five teams ahead of the Suns went on to win the NBA title.

Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said he knew what the Suns would do, but he couldn't stop them from doing it.

"We got absolutely dominated from the get-go," he said. "Look, that's a great team. I'm a little humbled by the fact that we could not come up with any kind of plan to stop them from a coaching standpoint."

## West if best

The Miami Heat have the best record in the NBA's Eastern Conference at 27-10, but they have a 7-8 record against teams from the Western Conference and just one victory against the top six teams from the West. Here's the results of those games:

Nov. 11 — lost to Dallas, 113-93  
Nov. 12 — lost to San Antonio, 93-84  
Nov. 16 — lost to Minnesota, 108-97  
Dec. 23 — won at Sacramento, 109-107  
Jan. 3 — lost to Seattle, 98-96  
Jan. 9 — lost at Seattle, 108-98  
Jan. 11 — lost at Phoenix, 122-107



Shawn Marion added 26 points and 11 rebounds, Steve Nash 16 points and 16 assists and Joe Johnson 24 points and nine rebounds for the Suns, who have won 18 of 19.

"Just right now it's fitting all together," Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni said. "He [Nash] makes it look easy, and the other guys make it look easy. They play off each other. This is probably our best stretch we've had all year."

The fleet-footed Suns ran out to a 17-point

lead in the first quarter, never let Miami closer than 10 and topped 120 points for the second game in a row and seventh time this season.

"I don't know that I've seen a quicker team in my 10 years in the league," Van Gundy said. "They've got great athletes at every position."

"They're a very unselfish team," Miami's Eddie Jones said. "And they push it right at you, right down your throat."

Despite his team's eye-popping record, D'Antoni won't call the Suns the best team in the NBA.

"You know, San Antonio's good," he said. "They only beat us by 20 points, so it's kind of hard for me to say we're better than they are. We're good. We're playing real well, and we're going to get better."

Shaquille O'Neal had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade added 23 points, but the Heat — beaten at Seattle on Sunday — lost two in a row for only the second time this season. The first was early November, when Dallas and San Antonio beat Miami in back-to-back games Nov. 11-12.

SEE SUNS ON PAGE 31



Oklahoma State's defense helps coach Sutton earn 767th victory  
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Green among players finally joining new team  
Page 31



Falcons' front four at the center of turnaround  
Page 28

## Leinart having trouble deciding between USC, NFL Page 26

